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SOVIET-U.S. TEST BAN TALKS RESUME IN GENEVA

LD161310 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1250 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Geneva, 16 Mar (TASS) -- The Soviet-U.S. talks between experts on ending nuclear tests resumed here today.

At the talks the USSR delegation is continuing to try to reach accord on starting full-scale negotiations on a full ban on nuclear tests.

The Soviet delegation is headed by A.M. Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Utilization of Atomic Energy. The head of the U.S. delegation is R. Barker, assistant to the secretary of defense (atomic energy).

Petrosyants on U.S. Line

PM161142 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[Article by A. Petrosyants, leader of the Soviet delegation at the Soviet-American talks on the problem of ending nuclear tests and chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilization of Atomic Energy, under the rubric "The United States and Nuclear Explosions": "Acting in the Spirit of the Times"]

[Text] The Soviet-American talks on questions of ending nuclear tests are resuming in Geneva. They are taking place in line with the accord reached by M.S. Gorbachev and U.S. President R. Reagan during their first meeting. The USSR and U.S. delegations have met four times at the conference table in Geneva since July of last year.

It should be noted that from the first, the talks have taken place in a difficult and complex atmosphere. In the first two rounds the American delegation stated that it does not regard the talks as full-blown and described them as simple meetings to clarify the situtation for future talks. Only during the third round -- after Reykjavik -- did the United States decide that it had at last embarked on talks.

In February of this year R. Barker, leader of the U.S. delegation, stated at one session that the American side is "prepared to take the first step toward a gradual process of limiting and ending nuclear tests in conjunction with a program for the reduction and eventual elimination of all nuclear arms." But he did not back up the readiness to end tests with anything concrete. On the contrary, all of the American delegation's proposals on ending nuclear tests, however shrouded in a verbal fog, have been aimed at postponing the resolution of this problem until the distant future.

The United States, in continuing its tests, is deliberately tying the problem of ending nuclear tests into a single tight knot with the nuclear arms reduction program. Moreover it is linking it ultimately to the elimination of all nuclear arms. Only on this condition, they say, is a total end to nuclear tests possible. One wonders: When all nuclear arms have been eliminated, why carry out tests? In that event, the question of ending tests will disappear of its own accord.

Trying to justify the U.S. stance at all costs, the American representative claimed that "the United States remains loyal to the ultimate goal -- the total ending of nuclear tests." But he at once stipulated that the United States will make this move only "when it is no longer necessary to depend on the nuclear deterrent to maintain international security, international stability, and when we have achieved broad, deep, and verifiable reductions in nuclear arms, a significant improvement in the verification potential, broad confidence-building measures, and greater equilibrium in conventional arms."

Not only did this statement fail to clarify the substance of the matter, but its accumulation of new "linkages" basically discarded even the semblance of U.S. readiness to resolve the question of ending nuclear tests.

We regard talks on banning nuclear explosions as an interconnected process: There are the questions of "thresholds" for the yield of nuclear explosions, the number of nuclear explosions a year, and the fate of the 1974-1976 treaties. In a word, the talks should lead to the elaboration of a full-scale treaty on a complete and final ban on nuclear explosions.

The U.S. delegation has thus far been oriented only toward bringing the 1974 and 1976 treaties to ratification by means of revising the quality of monitoring of nuclear explosions. Thus in effect it sought consent to a revision of treaties signed earlier, with no linkage to the process of preparing a treaty on a complete end to nuclear weapon tests. After, and only after, ratification, the U.S. delegation stated, would it be possible to begin considering questions connected with ending and banning nuclear explosions.

It was obvious to the Soviet delegation that examining the "threshold" treaties in close linkage with the question of ending nuclear tests does not suit the U.S. delegation. But agreeing to examine only the question of the above treaties would mean postponing indefinitely the resolution of the problem of ending tests, and even, in a way, legitimizing them. We cannot accept that, and insist on the immediate examination of these questions.

On observing the American side's conduct at the talks and analyzing its proposals, you form the impression that if the American scenario were followed, it is not at all clear whether the talks would continue after the review of the question of verification of the "threshold treaties."

But the American delegation cannot easily evade the need to hold talks on ending nuclear weapon tests. The United States is one of the depositories of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space, and Under Water. This treaty has already been in force for nearly 25 years. It makes it incumbent on the parties to seek to "achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time," and speaks of their being "determined to continue negotiations to this end." The treaty stresses the readiness of the signatory countries to end all nuclear tests forever.

An end must be put to nuclear tests. The Soviet delegation expects the United States to heed the voice of reason, show a sense of realism, and begin full-scale talks in parallel with the drafting of a treaty on the complete and final banning of nuclear explosions.

U.S. 'Dragging Out' Talks

LD121318 Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- Right after the Soviet Union put forward its new proposal government, political and public quarters in a majority of countries began to speak of a realistic hope for a long-awaited breakthrough at the Geneva talks on nuclear and space arms. Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, a deputy minister of foreign affairs of the U.S.S.R., told the Soviet political magazine NOVOYE VREMYA (NEW TIMES) in an interview:

And still the first positive reaction in the world to the Soviet initiative is not in itself a guarantee of a favorable outcome of the talks, the deputy minister noted.

There are those who continue to express opposition to accords on that matter, although their protests are rather muted and camouflaged. The intention is plain -- to avoid a politically unfavorable comparison of their negative stand with the broad backing received by the Soviet move, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh said.

Right-wing forces and all those who are associated with the incessant arms race are scared of the prospect of headway at the Geneva talks, the deputy minister went on to say.

Outwardly, the leadership of the United States reacted to the Moscow initiative without negativism so characteristic of the Americans' behavior in similar cases, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh noted. The question now is how real is the striving of U.S. political strategists for an accord on medium-range missiles in Europe.

Soon it will become obvious if Washington seriously wants an agreement. There are several indicators looking at which one can determine U.S. intentions with a fair degree of accuracy. The first warning signals are already there, the Soviet deputy foreign minister said. According to British press reports, U.S. representatives assured NATO ambassadors at a meeting in Brussels that Washington would not show excessive "haste" in concluding agreements. Isn't it another attempt at dragging out the talks with the help of various techniques used more than once in the past?

MOSCOW TV OPTIMISTIC ON EUROMISSILES PROPOSAL

LD151833 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Mar 87

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Stanislav Kondrashov]

[Text] If we take international life in its more traditional sense, with interstate diplomacy and not personal dramas, then the main trend of commentaries, just as in the preceding week, revolves around the shift in the situation brought about by Comrade Gorbachev's statement of 28 February. The possibility has become real and close, as never before, of concluding an agreement on the total elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe. A positive attitude has been shown, as you know, both on the part of the United States and on the part of Western Europe, primarily those countries on whose territory American missiles are deployed.

Of course, by no means has everything yet been solved, but the shift that has taken place is really encouraging. It concerns the elimination of 380 American Pershing-2 and cruise missiles and 355 Soviet SS-20 and SS-4 missiles. The American weekly BUSINESS WEEK has estimated that this is approximately 3 percent of the existing nuclear arsenals. It's not a great deal, not a lot, but all the same it's a first step in the direction of real nuclear disarmament.

The statement by the USSR Foreign Ministry representative published on 12 March singles out two factors which are also currently topics of discussion in the West. First, the question of monitoring [kontrol]. It was said that the Soviet side intends to devote particular attention to this question at the talks on an agreement. Second, the Soviet side is taking an understanding approach to the concerns of certain Western European states on the question of operational-tactical missiles. The statement of the Foreign Ministry representative says: We are ready immediately to begin talks on the reduction and total elimination of this class of missiles as soon as an agreement is signed on medium-range missiles. [video shows Kondrashov speaking to camera]

Karpov, Renton Discuss INF

LD121726 Moscow TASS in English 1706 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] London March 12 TASS -- Ambassador Viktor Karpov, head of the Department for Arms Limitation and Disarmament of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has held talks here with representatives of the British Government. Specifically, he met Timothy Renton, British minister of state, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. They discussed some problems connected with the prospect of the elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe, as well as other problems which are of interest to the USSR and Britain.

Viktor Karpov held a press conference for British and foreign journalists.

Verification at UK Location

LD121622 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1551 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Soviet inspectors could be based at Greenham Common where U.S. cruise missiles are deployed if there is an agreement between the U.S. and Soviet Union for the removal of medium range nuclear weapons from Europe, Mr Victor Karpov, a top Soviet official said in London today.

Mr Karpov, a former chief negotiator at Geneva and now head of the Arms Control Directorate at the Soviet Foreign Ministry told a press conference at the Soviet Embassy: "This would be the first agreement that provides for the elimination of nuclear missiles. We feel it is important that the first agreement should be verified as quickly as possible so there is not cheating. There could be provision for on-site inspection. We would like to have inspectors at Greenham Common. We would allow inspectors at our bases where the SS-20's would be dismantled and destroyed."

Mr Karpov insisted that verification should be adequate, whether this was by challenge inspection to check that the agreement was being observed, or by on-site inspection. He estimated that an agreement with the U.S. could be reached at Geneva within six months.

Burlatskiy on 'Rapprochement'

PM111041 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Mar 87 pp 9, 14

[Fedor Burlatskiy "Observer's Opinion": "New Thinking -- New Policy"]

[Text] The statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on the immediate conclusion of a separate agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe is becoming a turning point in nuclear disarmament and in ending the race in all types of weapons. This conclusion follows not only from the very nature of this major Soviet step but also from the reaction which ensued from the leaders of the United States, Britain, the FRG, and the overwhelming majority of other countries and, essentially, the entire international public.

Readers will already know about the position of the White House, Downing Street, and other Western capitals from our television and newspaper reports. Their reaction has been positive on the whole, although accompanied by certain provisos. Central television and press organs in New York, Washington, London, Bonn, Rome, Madrid, Brussels, and Tokyo have been optimistic about the prospects for the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles in Europe. Readers will of course be aware of the initial reaction from the French Foreign Ministry. However, President F. Mitterrand for all intents and purposes disavowed its position and stated that he had familiarized himself "with genuine interest" with M.S. Gorbachev's proposals and believes the prospect of removing or reducing Soviet and U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe is "in line with the interests of France and the world."

Everyone was waiting for a statement from President R. Reagan. The President made a special statement on the question, in which he welcomed M.S. Gorbachev's proposal and reported that U.S. representatives would shortly submit at Geneva their own draft text of a treaty on intermediate-range nuclear forces.

An analysis of the response to the Soviet initiative makes it possible to highlight several questions that merit our attention. The first question is: What has prompted the present Soviet proposal, which separates the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe from other arms reduction questions? All the official and unofficial commentators agree this represents an important Soviet concession, but they do not all interpret the motives, tasks, and goals of the Soviet leadership's new step as being aimed at ensuring a nuclear-free world.

Some see in it a desire to exploit the U.S. Administration's difficulties over "Irangate." Others perceive a goal of "outflanking" White House leaders and influencing Congress and U.S. public opinion to reject the administration's demand for increased appropriations for the SDI program. Others even claim the Soviet Union is attempting to neutralize the "propaganda damage caused by its resumption of nuclear tests." All these conjectures are extremely far from the truth.

The truth -- as clear as day -- is that new thinking requires new policies. The Soviet Union is pursuing a principled course -- it tirelessly seeks ways leading to real results, mutually acceptable accords, and practical achievements in the disarmament sphere.

It is not hard to realize why it is the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe that has been separated from all the other disarmament problems. First and foremost because it is not linked with the U.S. "Star Wars" program as closely as, for instance, the question of a 50-percent reduction in strategic arms. Missiles in Europe mainly concern European security, whereas strategic arms and SDI mainly relate to the sphere of Soviet and U.S. security. Furthermore, on no other question has there been such a rapprochement of positions as on medium-range missiles in Europe. It is well known that the first such proposal was voiced by European socialist and social democratic parties. During the Geneva and Reykjavik summits it was on this point that the sides' positions seemed most hopeful. So the way was cleared for agreement. The present Soviet proposal completes the huge range of talks that have been held at various levels recently.

President R. Reagan has provided his own interpretation of the new Soviet initiative. On the one hand he noted that the initiative is in line with the accord he reached with M.S. Gorbachev at the 1985 Geneva summit. On the other hand he laid particular stress on the fact that the Soviet proposal is the result of the firmness shown by the United States and its allies on the issue. He repeated the word "firmness" several times in his short statement, concluding it with the following sentence: "There is nothing more important for the cuase of peace than our firm adherence to the NATO alliance and our other allies." Is it worth, though, scoring petty propaganda points in the face of a unique opportunity to conclude an historic agreement?

R. Reagan's statement sidesteps the main thing: the good will and capacity for sensible compromise shown by the Soviet leadership. Politics is the art of the possible. This diplomatic principle, which was laid down back in ancient times, is more important now than ever. The confrontation between the nuclear giants, the division of the world into military blocs, the emergence of new centers of power, and the need to take account of the numerous interests of various regions and countries all make the utilization of the "all or nothing" formula senseless and unrealistic. We need a policy that is firm about its ultimate goals and flexible in its methods of implementing them. We need practical steps toward a nuclear-free world. We need a start — and an agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe is undoubtedly the best of all possible starts.

The second question is whether an agreement on this problem is feasible in the near future. In answering this question we must be sober and, to a certain extent, circumspect. The first official Western reaction was itself of considerable value. However, words are not as important as deeds. Nobody yet knows what form the draft treaty to be submitted by the United States at Geneva will take. Already many speeches by Western representatives are making various provisos, conditions, and allusions liable to complicate and delay successful progress toward agreement. This is despite the fact that the Soviet statement already contains necessary explanations on disputed points.

The question of operational-tactical missiles is being put forward once again. The statement says clearly that, first, as soon as an agreement on the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe is signed, the USSR will withdraw its enhanced-range operational-tactical missiles from the GDR and the CSSR in agreement with the governments of those countries.

It is again claimed that the USSR has a "major advantage" in so-called battlefield nuclear weapons -- short-range missiles. Without going into a discussion of the question of who has an advantage, we would note that the statement also contains a firm assurance on this score. Our country is prepared to embark immediately on talks aimed at reducing and totally eliminating other operational-tactical missiles. The Soviet position on equal [paritetnyy] reductions in its medium-range missiles in Asia is also clearly set out. In his speeches at Reykjavik and subsequently M.S. Gorbachev has left not a shadow of doubt about our readiness to implement comprehensive verification [kontrol] on a reciprocal basis to effectively monitor [proverka] agreements in the disarmament sphere.

Thus, technical questions and verification [verifikatsiya] problems are not an obstacle to an agreement, which could be rapidly adopted.

What can we expect from the U.S. President now that the Democratic Party has a majority in Congress, the fierce battle over "Irangate" is continuing, the game of musical chairs played by leading White House and other U.S. department staffers is not over, and the President himself needs a major personal success in connection with the sharp fall in his standing? Finally -- and this is probably the main thing -- what can we expect now that R. Reagan is bound by the clear commitments he made at the Geneva and Reykjavik summits?

Of course, these questions are easier to ask than to answer. Experience shows that the promptings of the U.S. President's heart and mind are hard to predict. Yet it is possible, without any great risk of making a fool of oneself, to make the following assumption: We are now closer to agreement than ever before. President R. Reagan has already demonstrated his capacity for certain compromises. The accords reached jointly during the Geneva and Reykjavik talks are an example of that. One can imagine the difficulty with which the President accepted the impermissibility of nuclear war, stated his abandonment of the quest for military superiority, and associated himself with the Soviet idea of the total elimination of nuclear weapons by the end of the century. His agreement to the zero option in Europe for medium-range missiles and to a 50-percent reduction in strategic arms is no less important.

Of course, he now faces a much harder problem -- it is necessary to switch from words to deeds. Will the President grasp this historic chance? We hope so.

In all the circumstances M.S. Gorbachev's statement represents the new thinking and the new policy in action. The future belongs to just such an approach.

IZVESTIYA on 'Spring Hope'

PM151435 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Mar 87 Morning Edition pp 4, 5

[Stanislav Kondrashov article: "Spring Hope" carried under "Political Observer's Opinion" rubric]

[Text] In that extraordinarily important and insufficiently stable sphere of international life called USSR-U.S. relations a new hope has been born: for the elaboration and signing of an agreement on the elimination of USSR and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe. Because it has coincided with the approach of spring, I shall call it a spring hope. The hope has sprung not from the intoxicating March air and sun which is climbing ever higher in the sky, but from political changes. It has at least two components.

First: M.S. Gorbachev's proposal voiced on 28 February that medium-range missiles be singled out from among the bloc of issues which were discussed at Reykjavik and that a separate agreement on them be concluded without delay. The Soviet Union opened up the Reykjavik package and went as far as possible to meet the U.S. position halfway by adopting the "zero option" put forward by President Reagan back in 1981, and agreeing to implement it separately, unconnected with the problem of strategic nuclear arms and space arms.

The second component: Reagan's administration, bogged down in the mire of the "Iran-contras" scandal and having lost a great deal of the American people's trust and also a great deal of its West European partners' trust, is seemingly beginning to drag itself out of this mire and it is not averse to making use of success in the arms control sphere as a towrope to pull it out. This is a sure means of increasing its popularity among Americans and also to restrict and weaken the stream of criticism on Capitol Hill.

This is how it looks to the authors of an article in the U.S. weekly, BUSINESS WEEK: "Now that the President is trying to clear the hurdle of the Iran scandal, Gorbachev has agreed to a compromise.... In a single move, the Soviet leader has resuscitated the fading arms control process, boosted his international prestige, and thrown a life preserver to the drowning President."

This expression -- a life preserver -- figures time and again on the pages of the Western press. It is inaccurate. It is not a question of rescuing or, on the contrary, drowning the Reagan administration. Indeed this is not within the capacity of another power whose attempt to influence the processes of U.S. domestic life could have the opposite effect to the one expected. It is a question not of biding one's time, but acting. Biding one's time would mean a waste of time (until the end of Reagan's presidential term) and ahead lies the unknown -- who will take the place of the current President in the White House, what will be his political complexion and program, and how much time will go by while he is shaping his own policy in the sphere of arms control? Meanwhile the arms race would continue along all avenues.

Of course, in America the heirs of those who, in the McCarthy years used to look for communists under every bed, have not disappeared but have multiplied. Evans and Novak, the bywords for journalistic hawkishness, perceive a trap even in the life preserver insofar as by clutching at it, the weakened President would, out of a sort of gratitude fixation, make unnecessary concessions to the Russian rescuers. This is the latest primitive rubbish passed off as the fruit of sophisticated reflection. We will not succeed in reeducating Evans and Novak. I would like to advise their readers, nevertheless, to take a direct look at the subject. Proceeding from the interdependence of the world which objectively exists in the nuclear age, and also from the commonality of destiny, Soviet foreign policy rises above considerations of sympathies and antipathies. Like it or not, we have no possibility to separate ourselves from each other. We are destined to have each other as partners who are called upon to solve the common problems of the survival of our own peoples and of all mankind. We must shoulder this responsibility and, as M.S. Gorbachev's statement says, "tirelessly seek denouements which open up the way to mutually acceptable accords."

One such denouement has been proposed by Moscow. A partial one, on medium-range missiles. Because the other side is not prepared for a comprehensive and radical solution, it is refusing to accept the entire Reykjavik package. [paragraph continues]

Moscow does not want to keep the problem of disarmament in the latest state of deadlock, to do nothing, and wait for fine weather at the seashore -- the shore of the sea of U.S. politics which has been tossed by the biggest scandal of the current Presidency, by the failing activeness of the 76-year-old White House incumbent, and by the rivalry of the weakening Republicans and ever stronger Democrats, a rivalry broadening in the runup to the 1988 elections.

"Why should we turn down the proposal if the Russians are doing precisely what we were urging?" This was the question posed by Max Kampelman, head of the U.S. delegation in Geneva. Americans a rank higher have also expressed themselves in the same spirit -- the President himself, Secretary of State Shultz, and even Defense Secretary Weinberger who automatically says "no" to everything emanating from Moscow. If you don't turn something down, does this mean that you accept it? The next few months will answer this question. In Geneva, where the seventh round of USSR-U.S. negotiations ended last week, the groups concerned with medium-range missiles have not dispersed but are continuing to work. Mr Shultz will visit Moscow from 13 through 16 April for meetings with his Soviet colleague, E.A. Shevardnadze and, obviously with M.S. Gorbachev. To judge by all accounts, the whole range of issues concerning the relations of the two powers will be discussed with understandable emphasis on the prospects for an agreement in Euromissiles. Inevitably suppositions have arisen concerning the possibility of a new summit meeting, just suppositions. It would be premature to talk about such a meeting on a concrete plane, but the signing of an agreement on medium-range missiles would obviously provide a worthwhile foundation for holding it.

Such is the spring hope that has appeared over the half year since the autumnal achievements and disappointments of Reykjavik. It proves once again how difficult it is to forecast the development of a situation even for those who have studied the United States and our relations with the United States for many years -- for instance, the author of these notes. Two weeks ago it seemed to me that Reagan's administration would hardly surface from the spinning whirlpool of "Irangate." The President has succeeded in avoiding accusations of covering up facts and in heaping the greater part of the blame not upon deliberate intent, but on a weak memory and also on National Security Council staffers of which the White House hastened to rid itself. Donald Regan, who became the odious protagonist of the scandal found himself overboard. A former senator, Howard Baker, was appointed as his replacement as White House chief of staff. He enjoys the respect of Washington's political circles and is capable of strengthening the administration's reputation on Capitol Hill and of preventing the exacerbation of the scandal surrounding the delivery of arms to Iran.

Without lurching to the other extreme, I would make the reservation that it is impossible to guess the twists and turns of the immediate future. The destructive potential of "Irangate" is not yet exhausted. At the present stage, the Reagan administration is looking more capable in the foreign policy sphere and the Soviet proposal which has come just at the right time provides the administration with the opportunity to display this capability. The President merely has to take his own branchild -- "the zero option" -- seriously and ensure the kind of coordination of stances within his administration which is essential for drawing up an important agreement and which, alas, has so far been lacking for the most diverse reasons.

In a certain respect, the spring hope can be called a 3-percent hope. According to the calculations of the aforementioned BUSINESS WEEK, we are talking about approximately 3 percent of nuclear arsenals. To cite precise figures: 380 American Pershing-2 and cruise missiles, and 355 Soviet SS-20 and SS-4 missiles (with 841 warheads). [paragraph continues]

After such a reduction it is still an extremely long way to a nuclear-free earth and an unarmed space, to the ultimate goal set by the Soviet Union's Reykjavik package. Something is better than nothing. It is better now rather than at some unspecified time. The goal of nuclear disarmament still stands. On the long and difficult path to this goal real and not declarative steps are needed, albeit just the first steps. Instead of the monstrous inertia of the nuclear arms race, it is necessary to create another kind of inertia -- movement in the opposite direction. In pursuit of the ideal, great calculations of precisely this kind are riding upon the fragile spring hope.

KASHLEV SPEAKS AT WARSAW PACT-NATO CONSULTATIONS

LD161721 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1930 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] TASS -- During scheduled consultations between representatives of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO countries here today, the Soviet representative, Ambassador Yuriy Kashlev, expounded the Soviet Union's approach to the objectives and mandate of the proposed new talks on the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

It was noted that a wide-scale program on that score had been set forth in the Budapest message adopted by the Warsaw Treaty member-countries in June 1986.

The latest consultations between representatives of Warsaw Pact countries and those of NATO in Vienna have ended.

VORONTSOV CONFERS WITH PACT AMBASSADORS

LD131645 Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS -- Head of the USSR delegation at the talks on nuclear and space arms, first USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov met today with ambassadors of the Warsaw Treaty member countries. There was a thorough exchange of opinions about the state of affairs at the Soviet-U.S. Talks in Geneva after the Soviet Union submitted the proposal for a separate agreement on the elimination of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe. The participants in the meeting also discussed questions related to the work of the conference on disarmament.

PACT ARMS REDUCTION EXPERTS MEET IN SOFIA 11 MAR

LD121815 Moscow TASS in English 1805 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Sofia March 12 TASS -- The working group of the experts of the Warsaw Treaty countries on the reduction of the armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe had a regular meeting in Sofia on March 11. The experts reviewed progress in work on the Budapest address in the context of unofficial consultations which had began at the Vienna meeting between CSCE delegates on the mandate and forum of talks on the reduction of the armed forces and conventional armaments on a European scale.

CEMA MEMBERS TO INCREASE ATOMIC POWER DEVELOPMENT

LD161736 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] The socialist countries, members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, intend to speed up the development of the atomic power industry and build the basis of thermonuclear power engineering. According to a report published by the Council's Secretariat in Moscow, experts of this international organization see no reason for slowing down the pace of atomic power engineering development. They believe the only conclusion to be drawn from the Chernobyl tragedy is that nuclear power plants must be as safe as possible. The Soviet Union, Bulgaria, and Czechoslovakia have announced plans to apply joint efforts to double electricity output at nuclear power plants by the end of the century. The German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia expect their energy potential to be built up exclusively through nuclear power facilities.

'INTERNATIONAL SITUATION -- QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS'

LD140015 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 87

["International Situation -- Questions and Answers" program presented by Andrey Ptashnikov, foreign policy commentator of All-Union Radio; with Vladimir Nikolayevich Chernyshev, TASS military affairs observer; Vladimir Dmitriyev, All-Union Radio correspondent in Geneva; Vladimir Fadeyev, All-Union Radio Commentator]

[Excerpts] [Ptashnikov] Hello, comrades! Sorting through the letters received in our program's mailbag, one always discovers that most listeners are mainly interested in issues linked with different aspects of Soviet-American relations. This is quite natural, for it is on the policies of the USSR and the United States that the course of development of international events and the political climate on the planet depend to a considerable, and sometimes decisive extent. The letters that have come in since the date of the previous edition have been no exception. Why didn't the United States agree to join in the unilateral Soviet moratorium on nuclear tests? How are the talks in Geneva about nuclear and space araments progressing? What is the reason behind the USSR's recent proposal that the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe be taken out of the package of issues and that a spearate agreement be concluded?

This is a far from complete list of the matters of concern in your letters, comrades: For example, in those from (Yuliya Grigoryevna Yovarovich) from Novokuybyshevsk; (Yefim Nikitovich Skibin) from the village of Ivanovka in the Voronezh oblast; (Pavel Ivanovich Plotnikov) from the town of Balashov in the Saratov oblast, and a number of our other listeners. Over the past few days, our international department has received a particularly large number of letters asking us to talk in greater detail about the last of the issues I enumerated -- the new Soviet initiative on medium-range missiles in Europe, contained in the statement made by Comrade Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on 28 February. We comply with this request with pleasure. And to ensure that you get a qualified and full reply, esteemed comrades, I have invited a specialist in this field -- Vladimir Nikolayevich Chernyshev, a TASS observer on military issues -- to take part in our program. Vladimir Nikolayevich, could you perhaps remind us of the essence of the new peace initiative announced by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee?

[Chernyshev] In his statement, Comrade Gorbachev, on behalf of the Soviet leadership, announced the following proposals: First it was proposed that the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe be taken out of the package of issues which are being examined at the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space armaments in Geneva. It was proposed that a separate agreement be concluded about this, and that this be done without delay. The agreement would envisage the complete elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe; and a sharp reduction in these -- down to 100 warheads in Soviet Asian territory and 100 in the United States. Second, it was proposed that talks be started immediately on operational-tactical missiles with the clearly defined objective of reducing this class of missiles and of eliminating it completely. In addition, the Soviet Union stated that it will withdraw from the GDR and the CSSR, in agreement with the governments of those countries, enhanced range operational-tactical missiles as soon as an agreement is signed on eliminating Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe. As it known, the operational-tactical missiles referred to were deployed in countries allied to the USSR as measures in response to the introduction into Western Europe of U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles.

These proposals have once again demonstrated our country's good will, its constructive approach, and its desire to find solutions with the goal of reaching mutually acceptable accords on problems of nuclear disarmament, of improving relations between states in Europe, and of strengthening security on the continent in a real way.

[Ptashnikov] How did the problem of medium-range nuclear weapons on the Continent of Europe arise in the first place? Western propaganda often accuses our country of being responsible for this problem coming into being? Does that correspond with reality?

[Chernyshev] No, of course it doesn't. The real facts tell of something totally different. Judge for yourself. Immediately after World War II, when the Soviet Union did not yet have atomic weapons, the United States concentrated more than 90 B-29 bombers with nuclear ammunition at bases in Great Britain. These were in effect the world's first medium-range nuclear weapons, targetted against our country from Europe. In 1954-58, the United States went further, deploying Matador, Mace, Thor, and Jupiter medium-range nuclear missiles in a number of NATO countries. And an air armada consisting of many hundreds of U.S. nuclear-weapons-carrying aircraft was permanently stationed in Great Britain, the FRG and other countries. All this was intended for the delivery of strikes against vitally important centers in the USSR and its allies. The U.S. nuclear ammunition delivery means sited close to the borders of the USSR began to be known as forard-based systems. At approximately the same time Britain and France acquired nuclear weapons.

Until the end of the fifties, aircraft provided the USSR with its means of delivering nuclear weapons. At that time it did not have any medium-range missiles. But it could not stand idly by as increasing numbers of missiles with nuclear warheads were being targetted against Soviet cities from different parts of Europe and Asia. As measures in response, it developed the SS-4 and SS-5 missiles, which it sited on its own territory during the years 1959-61, in numbers which -- together with the medium-range aircraft means -- balanced the corresponding nuclear armaments of the United States and the other NATO countries in Europe. Their development [sozdaniye] was therefore an imposed response to nuclear blackmail against the countries of the socialist community.

All this is evidence of the fact that it was not the USSR but the United States which created the problem of nuclear confrontation in Europe. Thanks to our country's measures in response, an approximate equilibrium has long been in existence in the field of nuclear armaments in Europe between the Warsaw Pact and NATO. If one takes the entire totality of the means that there are here, then the West has an advantage as far as some types of weapons are concerned, while the USSR has some advantage as far as others are concerned. But since the seventies the sides have had approximately 1,000 medium-range delivery vehicles each -- both missiles and aircraft -- in Europe.

[Ptashnikov] However, military equilibrium has never been to the United States's liking. As we know, using the myth of the Soviet military threat, and distorting the real correlation of forces on the continent, in 1979 they managed to get through, in NATO, a decision under which 572 new U.S. medium-range missiles -- the Pershing-2 ballistic missiles, and the cruise missiles -- were to be sited on the territory of several West European countries which were NATO members.

[Chernyshev] Yes, you are right. As they often say in the West, the grounds for this decision was supposedly the deployment of the Soviet SS-20 missiles, in substitution for the obsolete SS-4 and SS-5 medium-range missiles.

But the existence of the SS-4 and SS-5 missiles had not given rise to any concern in NATO countries. It is difficult to understand, therefore, why there was a sudden appearance of concern in connection with the SS-20's. The strategic situation in Europe was not changed by the fact that the USSR started to replace missiles which had come to the end of their useful life with more modern ones. For every two SS-20 missiles deployed, the Soviet Union simultaneously took out three old missiles. While the USSR had about 600 ground-based medium-range missiles in the western part before deployment of the SS-20's began, now there are only 355. Furthermore, one-third of these are obsolete SS-4 missiles. The SS-5 missiles have been eliminated completely. Although the number of warheads on the missiles has been increased somewhat, the overall total capacity of Soviet missiles has been reduced over this period by a factor of more than two. All of this is well known, but they persist in remaining silent about it in the West. For its own part, the Soviet Union has undertaken a whole range of measures to prevent the level of military confrontation in Europe from being raised and to prevent any build-up in medium-range nuclear armaments here. One might recall that in March 1982 it introduced, unilaterally, a moratorium on the deployment [razvertyvaniy] of medium-range nuclear armaments in Europe and even carried out a reduction in such means. At the Soviet-U.S. talks on limiting nuclear armaments in Europe, our country did everything possible to find a mutually acceptable way to reduce, rather than increase, the number of medium-range nuclear means on the continent. However, the United States rejected any compromise that we made and went ahead, nevertheless, with the siting [razmeshcheniye] of its new missiles.

[Ptashnikov] What was Washington's real aim?

[Chernyshev] In actual fact deployment [razvertyvaniye] of the new U.S. missiles in Europe pursued the goal of achieving military superiority over the Soviet Union, not just in medium-range means, but overall, as a whole, in the military-strategic field, in so far as -- where the Soviet Union is concerned -- these missiles, by virtue of the geographical situation are strategic weapons, and first-nuclear-strike means by virtue of their characteristics. The main Pentagon strategy was to relocate its medium-range nuclear missiles on the territory of the West European NATO countries; not out of concern for the security of Europe, as they try to make out in Washington, but from a desire to transform that continent into the main theater of military operations, to reduce the force of any retaliatory strike against U.S. territory in the event of aggression against the Soviet Union, and to ensure the possibility of waging a limited nuclear war in Europe.

[Ptashnikov] What, then, is the situation now in the field of medium-range missiles in Europe? Has the United States succeeded in changing the balance in its own favor?

[Chernyshev] No it hasn't. This, too, can be illustrated by the facts. By the end of 1986 the United States had deployed [razvernut] 364 missiles in Western Europe. These included 108 Pershing-2 missiles and 256 cruise missiles. In all NATO has 542 medium-range missiles in Europe. The United States has 364; Great Britain has 64; and France has 114. The Soviet Union has 343 [figure as heard] medium-range missiles in the European zone: 243 SS-20's; 112 SS-4's; and 18 sea-based missiles -- SS-N-5's. The number of missiles and number of warheads on the missiles of the NATO countries is greater than those of the Soviet Union. If one includes aircraft, then NATO has more medium-range delivery vehicles in Europe and nuclear warheads on them than the Warsaw Pact does. But, taking into account the Soviet Union's measures in response to the deployment [razvertyvaniye] of the U.S. missiles, such as siting [razmeshcheniye] of enhanced-range operational-tactical missiles on the territory of the GDR and the CSSR and some other measures, there are complete grounds for asserting that an approximate equilibrium in medium-range nuclear means does exist between the sides here.

[Ptashnikov] Before Reykjavik, at the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Iceland, and now, with its new initiative, the Soviet Union has taken a whole series of steps toward meeting the positions of the United States and its allies. In particular it has given up the demand that the aircraft belonging to the forward-based means be taken into account; it has given up taking into account -- and even placing any kind of limitations upon -- the nuclear means of Britain and France; it has agreed to reduce sharply its medium-range missiles in the Asian part of the country; and now it has also agreed to take the problem of the medium-range missiles out of the Reykjavik package, although -- particularly given the concessions referred to above -- this is linked directly with the other problems which are being discussed at the Geneva talks. So what makes it possible for our country to propose such bold and out-of-the-ordinary solutions to such important questions?

[Chernyshev] First, I would like to say that of course the Soviet Union continues to believe it would be preferable to solve the whole range of questions -- space, strategic offensive armaments, medium-range missiles, ending nuclear tests -- as a set of issues, thereby ensuring a harmonious process of strengthening international security at constantly falling levels of military confrontation. At the same time, understanding that the Geneva talks face the danger of finding themselves in a blind alley once again after Reykjavik, our country decided that the question of medium-range missiles should be solved first, taking into account particularly the fact that today it lends itself most easily of all to a solution.

But now about what it is that enables our leadership to make decisions so boldly, to carry on its constant search and to display tactical flexibility: First and foremost it is the fact that the Soviet Union's stance is the expression of a new approach, of new thinking, which is dictating a truth of exceptional importance: ensuring security in the nuclear-space era is a matter of politics. In our day there can be no national security which is not part and parcel of universal security. Making bold decisions is clearly also encouraged by the fact that a detailed, stage-by-stage plan for the complete destruction of nuclear weapons by the end of the current century has also been worked out in the Soviet Union. This makes it possible to take the long-term view and consequently to display tactical flexibility on the road toward achieving the ultimate strategic goal. I think you will agree with me when I say that the most difficult -- but the most important -- step is the first step. Our country has now chosen the link which, once grasped, will enable the whole chain to be pulled out.

[Ptashnikov] Vladimir Nikolayevich, in what fields could the conclusion of an agreement on medium-range missiles lead to positive results?

[Chernyshev] I think that on the political level such an agreement would be the first real step in the field of disarmament -- and that is very important when the sides started to disarm -- taking practical steps. This would create an atmosphere of greater confidence. It would be demonstrated in practice and fixed in a legal form, by means of a treaty, that after Reykjavik the only way to move is to go forward, relying on what has been achieved, continuing the search, finding solutions, and bringing the positions closer together.

On the purely military level this step would play an extremely noticeable role, in so far as a considerable part of a whole class of nuclear weapons would be eliminated and a whole continent would be rid of it. The threat of nuclear war in Europe would fall, whether deliberately or on an unsanctioned, chance basis. Removing the temptation to start a nuclear -- to start a limited nuclear war, I would say, planned in the Pentagon, means lowering the threat to our country and to our allies. It means releasing the West European countries from the role of the Pentagon strategists' nuclear hostages.

This means that all European states and the whole world will benefit, because the European fuse will disappear, the fuse of universal nuclear conflagration. In the realm of talks an agreement on medium-range missiles might be capable of stimulating progress toward reaching an accord on reducing strategic weapons, linked to not going beyond the ABM Treaty; it might push the sides toward starting talks on conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals and speed up the conclusion of a treaty on eliminating and banning chemical weapons.

On a psychological level these first real measures would serve as a stimulus for optimism in the world. An accord on medium-range missiles would demonstrate that it is possible to make moves in a positive direction and to emerge from the present difficult international situation onto the path of cooperation. So now it is up to our partners in the talks. The very near future will show whether they are capable of understanding the urgency of the hour, of rising above their own egotistical aspirations, and of using the truly historic opportunity offered by the new Soviet initiative.

[Ptashnikov] Thank you very much, Vladimir Nikolayevich.

As I said at the very start of the program, a great many of our listeners are interested in how the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons are going in Geneva. Several days ago the seventh round of these talks was completed. Our Geneva correspondent Vladimir Dmitriyev asked Comrade Vorontsov, the head of the Soviet delegation in Geneva and first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, to sum up its results. We present a recording of that interview:

[Begin recording] [Dmitriyev] My first question for you, Yuliy Mikhaylovich: What do you see as the main distinguishing features of the seventh round?

[Vorontsov] I would like to say that from the very outset of this round, 15 January, the Soviet delegation has tried to do everything it can to conduct it in a constructive spirit, in a spirit of elaborating what are already the main provisions of future agreements, always oriented toward those great accords attained in Reykjavik. Of course, the most important thing that has happened at this round is the important statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev on intermediate-range missiles, which opened up for us the opportunity of working with the U.S. delegation on a specific text of a treaty on liquidation of intermediate range missiles in Europe and considerable reduction of them in Asia. This work has started. The U.S. delegation agreed to the elaboration of such a treaty. Of course, there is complex work to come, since this will be the first agreement between the USSR and the United States on the actual destruction of nuclear and missile weapons. Of course this is not a simple matter, it needs great effort and time.

[Dmitriyev] Here in Geneva I personally had the opportunity of talking to many eminent representatives of various European states. In general, their assessments are positive; they welcome the Soviet initiative and appraise it very highly. Yet at the same time certain western press organs assert that these new Soviet proposals are a consequence of the failure of the USSR's attempts to get the United States to renounce the SDI program. What would you say to that?

[Vorontsov] No, I do not think these issues should be linked, as two interlinked issues are really strongly coupled [as heard] -- these are not to permit the arms race in space and to reduce strategic offensive weapons.

There cannot be one without the other. As far as intermediate missiles are concerned, of course these are also important weapons, but this can be resolved separately and, moreover, we consider that resolving the separate issue of intermediate-range weapons will provide impetus for the quickest possible search for solutions to the two other, mutually linked, issues -- space and strategic offensive weapons.

[Dmitriyev] Could we please dwell on one other aspect -- another kind of judgement, so to speak, is, I would say, speculation over the fact that the Warsaw Pact countries allegedly have a lead in conventional weapons.

[Vorontsov] That is an old refrain of the Western powers. There is no advantage for the Warsaw Pact countries over the NATO countries in weapons. If we take all the Warsaw Pact Armed Forces and all the Armed Forces of the NATO countries, overall there is parity. One side or the other has more and the other less of one specific kind of weapon or another, but overall there is parity. So, the far-fetched old refrain about some kind of Soviet superiority is now only being used in order not to reach agreement. The West is not ready, it seems, to move toward making considerable reductions in weapons in Europe as far as conventional weapons are concerned. But those are our proposals, they are the proposals of the Warsaw Pact countries. We call upon the Western countries to sit at the negotiating table at any time to discuss these proposals. However, the West is still looking for various ruses so as not to sit at this negotiating table. It is up to the Western powers.

[Dmitriyev] And the last aspect: Of course it is hard to make predictions, but when might this treaty on intermediate-range missiles in Europe be concluded? In a month, 2 or 3 months, a year?

[Vorontsov] No, a year is too long, and, I repeat, agreement in principle was attained in Reykjavik, and all the main provisions are now prepared for the treaty on intermediate missiles. But what we don't have is a detailed description of precisely which missiles are concerned and where their liquidation will take place, and here, with the U.S. delegation, we have to find answers to these many, various questions, and answers in the language of treaties. It is complicated, but it is possible, and without doubt, essential. [end recording]

'MAILBAG' GIVES RATIONALE FOR JAMMING BROADCASTS

LD142338 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 14 Mar 87

[From the "Moscow Mailbag" program, presented by Gennadiy Nikiforov and Aleksey Stroganov]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Nikiforov] William Cassidy in Rainhill, Merseyside, wants to know about the jamming of radio stations.

[Stroganov] You may be interested to know that, contrary to the popular belief in the West, it was not the USSR that introduced jamming first. Austria was the first state to use it, back in 1938 when the Austrian Government decided to jam Nazi broadcasts, which was in line with an international convention adopted 9 years earlier, for the convention banned radio propaganda aimed at undermining a sovereign state's political system. And that was the aim of Nazi external broadcasting before and during the war. The 1936 convention provided for radio being used in the interests of peace and international security.

In the early seventies another international convention legally established the right of any state to interfere with broadcasting that undermines national security and offends people's feelings. The adoption of this particular convention was a necessity in view of what has been going on in international broadcasting in the last several decades, during which the West started a real psychological war in the air with the prime target being the USSR and other socialist countries. Suffice it to recall the role played by Western broadcasting in provoking the events in Poland back in the seventies. Quite a few of such stations are in fact fronts for intelligence services, notably the CIA, which runs such stations as Radio Free Europe.

The Soviet Union, in accordance with the international convention on broadcasting, has been jamming those radio broadcasts that are aimed at undermining national security, spreading anti-Sovietism, ethnic antagonisms among our people, and broadcasts that may be considered war propaganda or that offend our people's dignity. Recently, as a sign of good will, we stopped jamming the Russian service of the BBC. We did so in the firm belief that international broadcasting should serve the cause of better understanding and peace, and not the cause of mistrust, suspicion and hate.

VIENNA TALKS ON THERMONUCLEAR FUSION BEGIN

LD151759 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1320 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Vienna, 15 Mar (TASS) -- A quadripartite meeting of representatives of the Soviet Union, the United States, Japan, and the EEC on matters concerning the implementation of the Soviet Union's proposal on international cooperation in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion began at Vienna's International Center today.

The meeting is the practical result of the initiative put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, during his summit meetings in 1985 with President Francois Mitterrand of France in Paris and President Ronald Reagan of the United States in Geneva.

The participants in the current meeting will discuss the joint designing of an international thermonuclear reactor, which is one of the principal promising directions of further development of world power engineering.

The Soviet delegation to the meeting is led by B.A. Semenov, deputy chairman of the USSR Committee on the Use of Atomic Energy.

PRAVDA CITES REAGAN REMARKS IN WEEKLY BROADCAST

PM161138 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Conclusions Not Drawn"]

[Text] Washington, 15 Mar -- In his regular Saturday radio address to the country, President Reagan has stated he intends resolutely to oppose attempts by the U.S. Congress to stop American aid to the "contra" gangs which are trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government.

"My determination is rock solid," the President stated. "I will be fighting any attempts to stop the support to Nicaraguan freedom fighters." In this connection he argued that "Central America continues to be of vital importance for the United States." According to the President's "logic," it turns out that on the pretext of the "vital importance" of this or that region or country for America, Washington can interfere in other peoples' internal affairs, overthrow legitimate governments, and pursue a policy of armed aggression.

By all appearances, the White House has not drawn the necessary conclusions from the recent failures of this policy.

In the same broadcast, Reagan attempted to whitewash the Pentagon's role in the "Iran-contras" operation, lamenting the fact that he had not heeded Secretary of State Shultz and Defense Secretary Weinberger, who supposedly warned him against supplying weapons to Iran. In the context of this remark by the President, local observers recall that the report recently published in Washington by the Tower Commission, which investigated the circumstances of the deal with Iran and the transfer of the funds thus earned to the contras, contained a direct reproach addressed to Weinberger. The commission basically rejected the Pentagon chief's claims not to have been involved in "Irangate" at all.

Konnov Commentary

OW170229 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2305 GMT 16 Mar 87

[From the "Novosti" newscast; Viktor Konnov commentary]

[Text] President Reagan has declared that he plans to fight for further military aid to the contras. Our commentary:

[Konnov] Hello comrades. The U.S. President made this statement in his latest radio address to the country. He stressed that he would resolutely oppose attempts by Congress to stop U.S. aid to the contra gangs. My resolve is as firm as a rock, the President said. I shall fight any attempt to end support for the Nicaraguan freedom fighters. He further noted that Central America continues to be vitally important for the United States.

It could hardly be said that there was anything unusual about Reagan's statement. One thing is surprising: It was made literally right after Reagan's apologetic speech in connection with Irangate. Essentially, it boiled down to the fact that the U.S. President acknowledged that the sale of arms to Iran and the transfer of the profits to the Nicaraguan contras was a mistake and was illegal.

The President had more than sufficient reason to be apologetic and, I think, it was not the moral or legal side of the matter which prompted Reagan to recognize his mistakes. Obviously, a decisive role was played by the unprecedented drop in prestige and the threat of impeachment -- removal from the position of President.

Only a few days have passed since this penitent speech. During this time, the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress has voted against further military aid to the contras. The repentant President has immediately torn off his mask and expressed his firm-as-rock resolve to support the contra gangs. It appears that the White House chief's repentance was far from sincere.

The crux of his policy on this issue continues to be his burning hatred of a free and independent Nicaragua and, as you know, this kind of sentiment is a poor counselor in any affair, particularly an affair of state.

USSR HURTS U.S. BY REDUCING GRAIN PURCHASES

OW170450 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0530 GMT 11 Mar 87

[From "Agroprom -- Today and Tomorrow" program presented by Anatoliy Ivashchenko]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Last fall when the Soviet Union announced it expected to harvest 210 million tons of grain, the Western mass media was alarmed. The headlines read: The Russians are misleading the world; they cannot possibly have more than 190 million tons; the Russians exaggerate. Now the final figure has been announced: 210.1 million tons.

Radio Canada has reported the U.S. trade deficit has spread to trade with communist countries. This is a result of the USSR sharply reducing grain purchases from the United States in 1986. The U.S. Foreign Trade Commission reports that a drop in Soviet demand for grain as well as keen competition for goods and grain on the international market were the reasons why the Soviet Union failed to fulfill its obligations to purchase U.S. grain. As contributing factors, the commission notes the initial results of Soviet efforts to modernize agriculture, decrease agricultural losses, and raise the commitment of those engaged in agriculture.

VOA quotes U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Lyng as saying he hopes the USSR will fulfill its obligations in purchasing U.S. grain. Lyng said in a television interview that Moscow's failure to fulfill its obligations will result in significant U.S. economic losses. In this connection, the Reagan administration expresses great disappointment.

Well, we are in no way disappointed with this turn of events. We should rejoice.
[passage omitted]

USSR, PRC EXPERTS DISCUSS USE OF BORDER RIVERS

LD161658 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS -- A working meeting of Soviet and Chinese experts was held in Moscow from March 2 to 16. It was convened in accordance with an earlier reached agreement between the governments of the USSR and the PRC to set up a Soviet-Chinese commission to supervise the working out of a scheme of comprehensively utilizing the water resources of the border stretches of the Rivers Argun and Amur.

The experts discussed and agreed upon a plan of conducting field survey and research work during the summer period of this year. A protocol summing up the results of the meeting was signed.

ZHAO ASSESSES POLITICAL, ECONOMIC SITUATION

LD161012 Moscow TASS in English 0955 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Beijing March 16 TASS -- TASS correspondent Gennadiy Krivosheyev reports:

Zhao Ziyang, acting general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, has given an assessment of the present economic and political situation of the country in his speech made at a session of the Permanent Committee of the All-Chinese Committee of People's Political Consultative Council of China.

He said that, on the one hand the situation in the sphere of the country's economic development was good. However, on the other hand it is clear that a number of problems remain to be resolved. According to Zhao Ziyang, the assessment corresponds to the real situation, because this contradiction exists as an objective reality. In the past eight years gross national product doubled in the People's Republic of China and the national income nearly doubled, which is evidence of the steady growth of the living standards of the population.

The country managed to overcome the "overheating" of economy that became evident in the past several yars. At present the country's economy is steadily passing over to stable and even development.

Touching upon the problems facing the country, the premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China attached priority significance to the stabilization and regulation of prices. He said that in the past several years prices of a number of goods, including foodstuffs and necessaries, had been increased. This went along with the growth of real incomes of the population. The settlement of the situation in the sphere of price-fixing will be continued in the future, because the system of prices is in need of improvement.

Speaking about the "struggle against bourgeois liberalization", Zhao Ziyang said that it would be a long one. In this connection he dwelt on the importance of sticking to the principle of party leadership. "If China is left without the leadership on the part of the Communist Party, it will disintegrate", he said.

SENATOR PELL'S REMARKS ON TAIWAN TERMED 'CRUDE'

PM161413 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent Yu. Savenkov dispatch: "A Rebuff to the Senator"]

[Text] Beijing — At a briefing for Chinese and foreign journalists, a spokesman of the PRC Foreign Ministry Press Department has commented on the speech "On Taiwan's Self-Determination and Independence" by C. Pell, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

He declared: "This is crude interference in the internal affairs of China and a violation of the principles of the Sino-American communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The Chinese Government opposes claims and actions in support of Taiwan's 'self-determination' and 'independence.' There is only one China, and Taiwan is an integral part of China's territory. The PRC Government is the only legitimate government in China. This is a universally known fact."

TECHNICAL CENTER AIDS FALTERING PRC ENTERPRISES

PM170913 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent Yu. Savenkov dispatch: "Saved From Bankruptcy"]

[Text] Beijing — How can an enterprise working at a chronic loss and already having received the warning that "If you do not become profitable in 1 year, you will be declared bankrupt" be set on the road to profitability? Here is one way.

In Shenyang — a major industrial center in northeast China where, incidentally, a draft bankruptcy law has already been tested for some time — there is a consultation center on new technology questions. It includes more than 1,000 companies of different types (some of which sometimes have a staff of only two or three people). Some provide specialist advice on power engineering, others on transportation, and others on machine building. In times of difficulty enterprises can turn to them for help.

In particular, that was what the Shenyang Pharmaceutical Factory did a while back when it was facing the threat of bankruptcy. The technological center sent specialists to it who helped in the production of new and more modern preparations. As a result the enterprise became profitable: Last year it contributed 465,000 yuan to the budget. Qiu Chengjian, deputy chairman of a scientific and technical association in Liaoning Province, where a technological center operates, reported: "In the last few years the center has recommended 38,000 technical innovations and improvements to enterprises. Total income from the introduction of new equipment has amounted to 3.5 billion yuan. Some 600 enterprises have been saved from bankruptcy."

XINHUA MOSCOW CHIEF ON JOURNALIST CONTACTS

LD162252 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Among foreign journalists who covered the work of the Soviet journalists' congress was the head of the XINHUA office in Moscow, Comrade (Tang Xiure). He talked to our correspondent Irna Mishina:

[Begin recording] [Mishina] We have heard a telegram of greetings from the Chinese union of journalists. Can we hope for an expansion of journalistic contacts between China and the Soviet Union?

[(Tang) in Russian] I am very glad that our union of journalists has sent a telegram of greetings here. We are colleagues. We speak the same language. We, too, are restructuring. But I think that our unions of journalists have already begun to exchange delegations. And last year, in October, I also met your delegation in China, led by Comrade Losev.

Now the XINHUA agency and TASS exchange workers every year. Last year a delegation from IZVESTIYA visited us; they visited China. It is a large newspaper, and as a result of their visit they published extensive material in their pages, objectively and with good perception. This year a delegation from China's union of journalists will come for a visit. I think that too is a big step toward developing relations between journalists of China and the Soviet Union.

[Mishina] What material are you currently preparing and sending to China?

[(Tang)] I have already written a report on the opening of the congress of journalists of the Soviet Union. But on a commission from the editorial office of our professional magazine, CHINESE JOURNALISTS, the editorial office has asked me to write a more extensive piece, with pictures, about the congress itself and how restructuring is progressing in journalism. [end recording]

JAPAN-U.S. SPACE TALKS END 'WITHOUT RESULT'

LD160829 Moscow TASS in English 0745 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo March 16 TASS -- A round of consultations between Japan and the United States on issues of cooperation in building a space station has ended without result here.

Japanese representatives opposed the U.S. intention to join the Pentagon to the space programme. Besides Japan, a number of Western European countries and Canada agreed to participate in the project.

Legal issues caused most controversy as well. The American delegation demanded that the U.S. be given exclusive rights to the results of research and operation of the station, including the living quarters to be designed by Japan and Western Europeans.

Tokyo is seeking equal rights and consideration of the interests of all countries involved in the project.

AKAHATA DELEGATION VISITS LENINGRAD, MOSCOW

OW131148 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] A delegation of AKAHATA, organ of the Japan Communist Party [JCP], has been visiting the Soviet Union since 6 March. The four-member group is led by Yoshinori Yoshioka, chief editor of AKAHATA and member of the JCP Central Committee. The visit is at the invitation of PRAVDA, organ of the CPSU Central Committee.

The delegation first visited Leningrad and then returned to Moscow. Delegation members toured the Ordzhonikidze machine factory in Moscow yesterday, where they met with the head of the factory. He briefed the visitors on the past and present history of the factory, on reform under way, and on problems and tasks being faced by the factory. During the tour, visitors talked with workers and trade union activists.

Mr Yoshioka made the following comment:

[Begin recording] In our talks with cadres of the factory and party and with workers, we were greatly impressed on two points. One is that the factory was full of spirit for increasing production. The other point is that we could feel their enthusiasm for correcting shortcomings boldly while striving for increased production. For these reasons, our tour of the factory and conversations we had during the tour have proved to be very interesting. [end recording]

The AKAHATA delegation is visiting a kolkhoz in the outskirts of Moscow today. The delegation's visit will conclude tomorrow.

JAPAN DECIDES TO AID ROK 'DICTATORIAL REGIME'

OW070829 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Tokyo correspondent Pavel Potapov report]

[Text] The Japanese Government has decided to provide the Seoul regime with 44.6 billion yen in special-favored-nation loans in fiscal year 1987.

This was reported by Japanese papers on 5 March on information obtained from the Foreign Ministry.

In the summer of 1981, the White House demanded that the Japanese Government make concrete contributions to the Pentagon's Far Eastern policy by providing financial aids to South Korea. Washington did not want to bear, by itself, the burden of aiding the South Korean regime in maintaining a military force of over 600,000 personnel. At that time, debate was started in Tokyo as to whether this aid should be given as so-called economic aid.

The present administration does not seem to worry much about such delicate points. Now, it has decided to provide the South Korean dictatorial regime with aid amounting to nearly 45 billion yen.

South Korea, which is regarded by both Washington and Tokyo as the anticommunist fortress in Asia, has now become the major recipient of Japanese aid. The aid will be used to strengthen the position of the Chon Tu-hwan regime in South Korea. Thanks to aid from Japan and the United States, South Korea has been exempted from financial bankruptcy. South Korea's foreign debts have amounted to $40 billion. It has become possible, through aid, for the regime to suppress the activities of democratic forces in South Korea.

JAPAN'S DECISION ON UN 'PEACEKEEPING' ROLE VIEWED

PM051059 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 87 Second Edition p 7

[Vsevolod Ovchinnikov "Commentator's Column": "'The Blue Dragon'"]

[Text] Tokyo has made a decision on Japan's direct participation in UN international peacekeeping forces. In particular, it is planned to attach Japanese specialists in the fields of computers and long-distance communications equipment to the UN troop contingents serving in Cyprus and Lebanon.

In their haste to finally do away with Article Nine of Japan's Constitution, which proclaims repudiation of the establishment of armed forces, reactionary circles in Tokyo are feverishly seeking an excuse to legalize the participation of their illegitimate military in operations abroad. And they see the blue UN flag as the most convenient cover to set a legal precedent.

It would be appropriate to recall that, following the catastrophic earthquake in Mexico, Japan's foreign minister at the time submitted for discussion by the Diet the question of sending Japanese troops abroad to participate in international operations in the event of major natural disasters. This proposal was received cautiously. That was no accident: The country's peace-loving public remembers well that the creation of the "Reserve Police Corps" -- the embryo of today's "Self-Defense Forces" -- in the fifties was also justified by the need to give emergency assistance to the population in the wake of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and typhoons which are so frequent in the Japanese Islands.

Japan's National Defense Agency has for many years now diligently studied the legal, financial, and military aspects of the activity of UN international peacekeeping forces in different parts of the world.

At the height of the U.S. aggression against Vietnam, a Tokyo weekly publicized the "Flying Dragon" operation plan. That secret document, commonly dubbed "Blue Dragon" by Japanese commentators, dealt with the transfer of Japanese troops to South Korea to replace the U.S. occupiers there who, as is well known, hide beneath the blue UN flag.

The latest decision by the Nakasone cabinet to move from financial support for UN international forces to participation in them by Japanese personnel was linked by the newspaper YOMIURI with the desire by Japan, which again became a nonpermanent member of the Security Council in January, to step up its role in the world arena. It seems, however, that this step has primarily a different orientation.

The abandonment of the policy to limit the military budget to 1 percent of the gross national product meant the demolition of yet another barrier to the transformation of the Land of the Rising Sun into a military power. Now they want to use the blue UN flag to camouflage the emergence of its armed forces into the operational field.

ASAHI CITED ON U.S. NAVY PLAN FOR ALEUTIAN BASE

PM051249 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 1

[Unnamed own correspondent report: "United States: The Keflavik of the Pacific Ocean"]

[Text] Tokyo -- The Japanese newspaper ASAHI has published a rather interesting report concerning the strategic schemes of the U.S. Navy command.

The report describes the so-called "new ocean doctrine" adopted by the Pentagon. Among other well-known elements, this doctrine, according to ASAHI, includes one brand-new aspect. It is aimed at stepping up the U.S. military presence in the Bering Sea and creating an "attacking fist" there to deliver a strike against Soviet territory in "emergencies."

The U.S. naval base on Adak Island (in the Aleutian archipelago) is designed to be the main bridgehead here. According to a statement by Admiral Lyons, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, cited by the newspaper, the northern Pacific is strategically no less important to the United States than the South Atlantic. And since the Pentagon has a stronghold in the atlantic such as the base at Keflavik, there should be something similar in the Pacific. Adak in the Bering Sea is ideally suited to that, the admiral stated.

It is common knowledge that the United States has surrounded the territory of the USSR and other socialist countries with a network of military bases and facilities. And, as we can see, it is continuing to expand that network. And yet people make a fuss about the "Soviet threat" and "Soviet expansion" at sea! It is clear that this talk is nothing more than a screen for militarist preparations.

GUSEV MEETS JAPANESE INDUSTRIALISTS 23 FEB

PM051655 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the "Official Reports" heading]

[Text] On 23 February V.K. Gusev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received Y. Komatsu, chairman of the board of Kobe Steel, and M. Hayami, president of the Nisse Iwai firm, who are repsenting Japanese business circles. Questions of cooperation in the chemical industry sphere were discussed.

DRA'S NAJIB ADDRESSES VILLAGE PARTY SECRETARIES

PM161243 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Following the Course of Reconciliation"]

[Text] Kabul, 14 Mar -- Relative peace and calm have prevailed throughout Afghanistan's territory since the termination of large-scale military operations, Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, declared. Addressing the participants in the first seminar of secretaries from village primary PDPA organizations, which opened in Kabul Friday, he pointed to the steady growth of the prestige of the party and the revolutionary power among the people. The PDPA and the state firmly hold the political initiative. A number of former armed antigovernment groups have switched sides to the people's power. Some opposition groups are cooperating with the PDPA and the government. Talks are in progress with others on the subject of national reconciliation, and this creates favorable conditions for normalizing the situation in the country, Najib said.

Thanks to the policy of reconciliation, the Afghan leader noted, it has become possible to include representatives of the most diverse social strata of the population in the system of state administration. This is an important guarantee for the expansion of the social base of the people's power. The mass return of refugees home has become another factor of tremendous importance.

Najib said that the process of national reconciliation and the growth of the international prestige of the DRA, which stands on a peace-loving platform, create conditions for a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and the improvement of relations with neighboring countries.

Dwelling on the problems of the Afghan countryside, the general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee stressed that the years since the April Revolution have seen enormous changes, primarily social ones. At the same time, he pointed out, the PDPA and the revolutionary power failed to fully perceive from the very start of the revolution the entire complexity and intricacy of the agrarian and peasants question. The main forces were concentrated in the cities, and the necessary military, social, political, economic, ideological, and cultural measures to consolidate the basis of power in the countryside were not fully implemented. The agrarian reform was implemented hastily and it failed to perform its role, which was to rally the millions-strong peasant masses around the party and the people's power. The enemies took advantage of this, and exploited our mistakes to decive the peasants. The course of reconciliation taken by the PDPA and the government and the new tactics for solving the land problem correspond with the interests of the broad peasant masses and further the successful implementation of the agrarian policy of the people's power, the Afghan leader declared.

He pointed out that the party ranks at present include 35,000 peasants, 8,000 of whom were admitted to the PDPA last year. The country as a whole now has 1,000 village party organizations covering 2,000 villages. Najib called for the further consolidation of the party's positions in the countryside.

Addresses Intellectuals Group

LD151712 Moscow TASS in English 1607 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Kabul March 15 TASS -- The second congress of the DRA creative intellectuals' unions has been held in the Afghan capital today. The congress was addressed by Najib, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee.

We, he said, have at least fulfilled the age-old dream of the people that an end be put to poverty and backwardness, that their homeland be completely freed from any interference from the outside, that the bonds of friendship with the sincere friends and neighbours be strengthened. All this became the basis for the national reconciliation programme. The more actively we join in that policy, the speedier our social development will be.

Summing up the results of the reconciliation policy, Najib said that large-scale military operations had halted all over the country's territory, the prestige of the government and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan had grown. More than 34,000 refugees have returned home, nearly 10,000 members of former counter-revolutionary detachments ceased hostilities and gone over to the side of people's power, Najib said. The poorest sections of the counter-revolutionaries have split off the big counter-revolutionary forces. A considerable part of counter-revolutionary elements, which have so far not gone over to the side of the people's power, have taken a wait-and-see stance, which contributes to strengthening the people's power.

Talks are being held with various political parties and groupings on reconciliation and cooperation. Prerequisites emerged in the course of implementation of the national reconciliation policy for a positive political settlement around Afghanistan through the talks in Geneva. Afghanistan's prestige has grown in the eyes of world public.

We have every reason to say that the reconciliation process is irreversible. But to ensure a full and successful implementation of the peace programme, the party, the armed forces, the entire people, including creative intellectuals will have to work perseveringly.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the DRA Government, Najib noted, have always shown and continue to show concern for creative intellectuals. From the very first days of the April Revolution we tried to unite the country's creative forces into special unions and create maximum possible conditions for their successful work for the benefit of our people and our homeland.

In order to enhance the prestige of our writers, poets and artists, the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the DRA Council of Ministers have decided to introduce the honorary title "merited worker in culture of Afghanistan". A decision has been passed on establishing an annual literary prize for the best poetry, dramas and critical works, and also a special literary prize for the works dealing with patriotic and internationalist subjects.

Our strength lies in the strength of thought, in the strength of the truth, in the strength of the word, in historical foresight, Najib stressed in conclusion.

DRA FOREIGN MINISTER ON TALKS WITH PAKISTAN

PM271309 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Kuznetsov dispatch: "Afghanistan-Pakistan: On the Basis of Goodwill"]

[Text] Geneva -- Our delegation has made careful preparations for the latest round of Afghan-Pakistani talks, and, given our partner's goodwill, the Geneva meeting could be the concluding one, Afghan Foreign Minster Abdol Wakil declared at a press conference.

Commenting on the latest round of Afghan-Pakistani talks through the UN secretary general's personal representative, which had opened in Geneva, Abdol Wakil emphasized that Democratic Afghanistan is doing everything possible for a political settlement of the situation surrounding Afghanistan.

At present, the foreign minister emphasized, we are holding talks with representatives of 417 organizations and groups. Many thousands of Afghans who found themselves abroad have already returned to their homes.

Answering a question from this correspondent, Abdol Wakil condemned Washington's hypocritical policy. The Reagan administration verbally advocates a settlement of the Afghan question, but in practice it is continuing gross interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. Having allocated $630 million for subversive operations against Democratic Afghanistan, the United States, as the ASSOCIATED PRESS admits, is carrying out "the biggest covert operation to be conducted by the present administration."

The policy of national reconciliation, the Afghan foreign minister declared in conclusion, has received the Afghan people's broad approval and been greeted with understanding by the international public.

More on Talks

PM161419 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 14 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Constructive DRA Proposal"]

[Text] Kabul, 13 Mar -- DRA Foreign Minister Abdol Wakil has answered questions put by BAKHTAR on the progress of the Afghan-Pakistani talks being held through Diego Cordovez, personal representative of the UN secretary general, the latest stage of which was recently completed in Geneva. The sides, A. Wakil stated, discussed unresolved problems regarding a political settlement, including the question of the timetable for the return home of the limited contingent of Soviet troops from the DRA. A. Wakil pointed out that the Afghan delegation had made a constructive proposal designed to speed up the conclusion of an agreement and maintained a compromise position which left no doubt of the DRA's goodwill. However, the other side too should make a contribution to the conclusion of a mutually acceptable agreement. It, however, has leveled unfounded charges and taken other steps designed to aggravate the situation.

U.S. 'LIES' ABOUT DRA 'BOMBINGS' OF PAKISTAN

LD061832 Moscow TASS in English 1811 GMT 6 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 6 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

Provocative allegations directed against the sovereign Democratic Republic of Afghanistan come from Washington again. Spokeswoman of the U.S. Department of State Phyllis Oakley this time came out with allegations that military aircraft of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan shelled Pakistani borderline districts causing loss of life and injuries.

The allegations launched by Ms. Oakley have already been rehashed by certain bodies of the Western propaganda and have been resolutely and convincingly refuted by Kabul. [paragraph continues]

A commentary of the Afghan news agency BAKHTAR said that the purpose of another anti-Afghan campaign of lies is to try disrupt the Geneva talks at their most sensitive stage, when there is a hope to achieve a political settlement to the problem. The purpose of these lies is also to discredit the constructive stand and proposals of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan that earned international recognition.

And though lies are short-lived and allegations of the spokeswoman for the department of State burst like a soap bubble, it should still be said that if somebody in Washington, specifically in the U.S. Department of State, is really concerned about the situation in Afghanistan and around it, they could receive information about the reasons behind tension in that Asian area, and quite real information, not in remote Pakistan villages that had allegedly become the "targets for bombing" but right in their own home, in the United States. Was it not the United States that started and continues the undeclared war against the sovereign Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, having allocated over two billion dollars for the intervention againt that country? is it not Washington that is putting every obstacle to Kabul's course at national reconciliation? Was it not Pentagon hardliner Perle who had just confirmed again that the Reagan admministration intends to continue arming and financing the Afghan counterrevolution, pushing it to ever new criminal actions against the Afghan people?

And now the state of affairs is as follows: The spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of State "protests" hypocritically against "bombings" of Pakistani villages, bombings that did not take place, while Washington and its secret services continue putting every obstacle to an end to bloodshed on Afghan land. They in Washington shed crocodile tears over "innocent victims" of alleged bombings of the Pakistani territory, while doing everything to edge on terrorists hired by the CIA to new sanguinary actions in Afghan land....

Lies and provocations, naturally, cannot compel the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to give up the policy of national reconciliation on Afghan land. As to those, who disregard realities, who ignore the opinion of the international public and still bank on the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, and those who support such an aggressive course, hoping that they can invade a sovereign country with impunity and perpetrate criminal terroristic actions there, they should remember that the restraint of the DRA, its resolve to ensure peace on long-suffering Afghan soil are not at all a sign of weakness.

RECONCILIATION IN DRA, PDPA 'CLASHES' REPORTED

LD152356 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Feb 87

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Aleksandr Bovin; report by correspondent Mikhail Leshchinskiy]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Leshchinskiy] As happened many centuries ago, news here travels along the roads, the paths of convoys, and is passed on from one traveler to another. [video shows rural scenes, old man, shots of trucks on road as part of a convoy] [passage omitted]

This road runs along the southeast of Afghanistan and connects the Pakistani town of Peshawar with Kabul. Well, you can see how many vehicles there are here; the road has a busy life. More than 1,500 trucks pass here daily. They carry all kinds of cargo. Here we have timber, foodstuffs, construction materials, and fuel. It is compulsary for every truck to be examined at special checkpoints. This is a strict necessity because dushmans are still trying even now to smuggle explosives, ammunition, and weapons in trucks into Kabul.

Here is an incident that happened here at this checkpoint: [Video shows Leshchinskiy pointing to a truck nearby. A man is shown being interviewed by Leshchinskiy] Seven bags of explosives, 365 kg in all, were discovered on this vehicle that came from Peshwar by soldiers of the people's militia. [passage omitted]

Having discovered this explosive, Major (Gulat Abaneiy) said: The soldiers in my battalion have displayed vigilance and have prevented much misfortune. Taking advantage of this important and crucial moment for the country, the enemy is trying to stab us in the back. Nothing will come to this. The people are against it and the war. The criminal, insolent actions by the counterrevolution will not deceive or intimidate anyone.

[Video shows shots of hills and part of convoy] Even the highest mountains have roads, ancient Eastern wisdom says. The peace appeal is continuing its path along the roads to all corners of Afghanistan.

[Bovin] Yes, the ancient Eastern wisdom is right, of course: even the highest mountains, as you heard, have roads. But, the higher the mountain, the more difficult it is to lay these roads; and in our context, the more backward a country, the more difficult it is to take it along the road of social progress and social changes. That is to say, the more likely it is that the revolutionary changes will come up against objective and subjective difficulties. The Afghan revolution has had its full share of difficulties. The wish of the new government to pull the country out of the Middle Ages as soon as possible, that is understandable from the psychological point of view, has led to an excessive radicalization of the changes, the process of changes, and to the omission of a number of those necessary stages. This has alienated part of the peasantry from the revolution.

The dissension, feuds, and the bloody clashes within the ruling party itself have also played a negative role. All this has weakened the new government and helped the internal and external counterrevulution. All this, and particularly the undeclared war being waged from the territory of neighboring states has and is making a stabilization of the situation difficult. The present leadership in Kabul has embarked decisively on a course toward expanding the social base of the revolution and national reconciliation. As yet, as we have seen and heard, things are proceeding with great difficulty. The counterrevolution does not want to yield itsd postion, and here it is leaning on the active support of Washington. The United States, Comrade Najib stated recently, wants the presence of Soviet contingent in our country in order to hamper the USSR's position in international organizations and conduct anto-Soviet propaganda in Western countries. They are striving, Najib continues, through various methods and ruses, to hamper reconciliation, the consolidation of our policy, and the support for it by Afghan patriots. Of course, there are still many difficulties on the road toward stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan.

'TERRORIST ACTS' IMPEDING DRA RECONCILIATION

PM110907 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 87 First Edition p 3

[Major A. Oliynik "Military-Political Commentary": "Aghanistan's Hopes and Fears"]

[Text] Today is the 50th day of national reconciliation in the long-suffering land of Afghanistan, scorched with the flames of its underclared war. All this time the republic's Armed Forces have strictly observed the conditions of the military truce. The process of freeing former enemies of the people's power from jail is under way in line with the decision taken on this matter. More than 5,000 prisones have been freed to date under the conditions of the amnesty. [paragraph continues]

Approximately 10,000 former dushmans have laid down their arms in various provinces throughout the country. Hundreds of other members of armed groups are coming to realize the senselessness of the fratricidal war, abiding by the conditions of the military truce, and taking a neutral stand.

Despite the fact that counterrevolutionary leaders and local authorities have blocked off 255 camps in Pakistan and 45 in Iran, the stream of refugees returning home is still growing. In the first days of March alone, according to BAKHTAR, 17 families comprising 68 people returned home to Nangarhar Province and 230 families amounting to more than 3,5000 people returned to Helmand Province. More than 25,000 refugees have already returned home in the first 50 days of the reconciliation. Special centers have been set up to receive them in the border provinces. The refugees are given essential material and medical assistance at these centers and are then transported free of charge to their place of permanent residence, where the authorities help them to set up a home again and find work.

It can be said without exaggeration that every day of the reconciliation sees more and more people saying "yes" to national dialogue. The national reconciliation process in Afghanistan has roused every stratum of the population and encountered broad support among workers and peasants, the military and the intelligentsia, and women and young people. The people's power is trying to step up its peace offensive in the interests of speeding up the reconciliation process and restoring peace in Afghanistan.

The counterrevolutionaries are to blame, however, for the fact that this process is forced to proceed against a background of exploding rebel missiles and constant terrorist acts. The shelling of posts and areas where Afghan troops are deployed, attacks on freight conveys, and missile and mortar attacks on towns and villages are obviously deliberate and provocative. These actions have one aim only -- to wreck the reconciliation process in the country and drown the people's hopes of a peaceful future in blood.

The DRA Ministry of Internal Affairs informed me of the facts regarding breaches of the truce. Here is a list of just some of the terrorist acts committed by counterrevolutionaries in February:

Kabul, 13 February. New residential district shelled at night. No casualties. HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR building damaged. No counterattack.

Asadabad, 20 February. Heavy shelling of the city with 260 "ground to ground" missiles. Many casualties. Counterattack.

Qandahar Province, 28 February. Mortar attack on sentry posts and center of Arghandab. Dead and wounded. Counterattack.

The language of situation reports is terse, but nevertheless gives an idea of the scale of armed provocation and the insidiousness and brutality of the extremists. The enemies of the revolution have violated the conditions of the truce more than 750 times in just 50 days. Hundreds of totally innocent citizens have been killed or wounded. Among them are elderly people, women, and children.

The responsibility for these actions rests with the forign inspirers of the Afghan counterrevolution. While zealously talking about "trampled rights" in Afghanistan, the United States is directing the dushmans against the reconciliation policy and generously funding their bloody crimes.

SCARRED VETERAN OF DRA RECOUNTS WAR EXPERIENCE

OW240444 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 0420 GMT on 23 February broadcasts a 20-minute feature entitled "Recognition." Commentator Boris Batachuk begins the program by saying that the Soviet Union consists of a large number of people of many nationalities. People differ in their interests and aspirations, but there are common interests which makes us Soviet people.

Video shows interior of a cafe, audience, and veteran of the Afghan war, Aleksandr Karpenko, reading his poetry. The poem deals with his thoughts on Afghanistan, and his feelings at the moment of being wounded. Karpenko goes on to supply biographical data. After finishing school, he attended a military foreign language institute, was commissioned, and because of his knowledge of Persian, was sent to Afghanistan. He was wounded in 1981, and spent 3 years convalescing. He says: "I feel that this was a very serious period of my life, the period in the hospital. Perhaps, even more serious than the time spent in Afghanistan, because the wound was very severe and I had to recapture faith in myself."

Batachuk comments on Karpenko's poetry and says that, in a sense, Karpenko, after being wounded, was reborn. His primary aim now is to continue to be useful to society.

Video cuts to an interview with poet-songwriter Vladimir Migulya, who speaks of the great impression made on him by this young man, and says that he intends to write a song about him.

Karpenko is now studying literature. Video shows him sitting at a desk being interviewed. He says: "Currently, the situation throughout the world has changed. We are no longer speaking about the defense of our own fatherland within certain boundaries, but rather, the American expansionist policies have brought us to a point where any changes in the international situation affects the global climate of our planet."

Video shows the aging Viktor Nikolayevich Leonov, cutting to shots of the Soviet Arctic, where he served successfully in world War II and foiled the German plans. Video shows Vladimir Andreyevich Gololobov speaking about the German in World War II having seriously underestimated the spirit of the Soviet people.

Video once again shows Leonov being interviewed. Leonov speaks of the role, duties, and responsibilities of a soldier. He compares the soldier of today with those of the past, and concludes that the present generation is as good, if not better, and that all potential enemies should take note. Video returns to Gololobov, who recounts the case of a young officer who was badly wounded in Afghanistan. Although he was pensioned off, he asked to return to Afghanistan. When asked why he wished to do so, he said that children like to play war games. Most children play these games with toys. Children in Afghanistan also play war games, but they use real weapons.

Video focuses once again on Karpenko, who speaks of the images a soldier is likely to see during the heat of battle. The most common thought is for loved ones. Speaking about his mother, he says that she had shown much love to him, and how difficult it was for her when she heard he was wounded. He says: "When she first saw me -- I became used to it and besides, I did not look at myself in the mirror -- I can imagine what she must have felt when she first saw me. [The left profile of Karpenko is badly scarred.] It was the feeling of a mother who has invested so much emotion in her son, and suddenly the feeling that all is crumbling around her because, despite the encouragement of the doctors, the result is not yet clear.

Karpenko goes on to say that there is a tendency to try to forget, but one tries not to forget, so that others may not have to experience the same.

The program ends with Karpenko's poetry being read and video showing him walking in the forest with a girl. The final video shows a full frontal shot of Karpenko laughing, exposing the scarred left side of his face.

FORMER AFGHAN REBEL EXPLAINS RETURN TO DRA

PM111235 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent V. Kuznetsov dispatch: "They Decided To Cease Fire"]

[Text] Geneva -- Representatives of Afghan refugees who have returned to the motherland following an appeal from the people's power are attending the 43d session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. IZVESTIYA's correspondent asked (Khadzhi Sultan Mukhammad), who renounced the armed struggle a month ago and returned with compatriots to Baghlan Province, to speak about the national reconciliation process in the country.

"In Amin's time," he said, "I was thrown into jail without any explanation being given. When I was released I gathered together 2,000 families and led them to Pakistan. There I was met by Hikmatyar, one of the emigre leaders, who gave me money and many weapons.

"We were once again infiltrated into Baghlan Province. Hikmatyar behaved arrogantly and boasted that he could do anything, for he had 'strong friends from America.' They would not abandon him and would always provide a lot of money and weapons.

"But the cruel mocking of people is incompatible with Islam. I saw that people in Kabul wish us all well and want life to be better and for there to be no hungry, sick, or illiterate people. I saw that the authorities respect Islam and elders and consult with them. Gradually I came to the conclusion that armed struggle is pointless. It only helps to enrich Hikmatyar and people like him, whose hands are covered in blood. They are our enemies, enemies of Islam, for they eat and drink from other people's hands.

"When the general amnesty and the policy of national reconciliation were announced, I broke with Hikmatyar. We decided to end the struggle and engage in peaceful labor. Some 37 of my detachments -- approximately 1,500 people -- laid down their arms. We are now preparing for spring sowing. The government has provided credits, seeds, and rams. We want to build, not destroy.

"I have seen for myself that the government respects religion and does not prevent us from praying. Following our decision, seven more detachments have refused to serve Hikmatyar and returned to Baghlan Province with their families. Many want to return, but fanatical criminals kill those who have decided not to fight, and the Pakistani and Iranian authorities do not hinder them in this inhuman practice of intimidation.

"Americans spare no expense for weapons. We do not need them. Better to give us money for schools and mosques. I will speak about all this in Geneva."

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH DRA

LD101152 Moscow TASS in English 1133 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 10 TASS -- High-capacity relay centres which the USSR will supply to Afghanistan over the next few years will make it possible to introduce television in all the provincial centres of the republic. A contract on the supplies of T.V. technology was signed during the visit of Soviet Communications Minister Vasiliy Shamshin to Afghanistan.

Vasiliy Shamshin told TASS that the USSR was providing technological assistance to Afghanistan in the development of a radio relay system, thanks to which telephone links have been established between Kabul and 15 provinces. A ground centre of a space communication system built by Soviet specialists in Kabul provides Afghanistan with telephone and telegraph links with other countries. The centre is used also to exchange TV programs through the intervision system and to beam out programs of Afghan central television to seven provinces of the country.

Soviet-made sound amplifiers and street loudspeaker systems are in operation in many Afghan towns and communities.

Guidelines for further cooperation were laid in talks with officials of the Afghan Communications Ministry, Vasiliy Shamshin said. Before 1990, the Soviet Union will supply diverse communication equipment to Afghanistan to bring radio broadcasting to the entire territory of the country.

U.S. HELPING PAKISTAN TO JOIN 'NUCLEAR CLUB'

PM121609 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[Vladilen Baykov "Commentator's Column": "Dangerous Partnership"]

[Text] Does Pakistan possess its own atom bomb? At any rate, this sensational admission was recently made to representatives of the press by Pakistani physicist Abdul Qadir Khan. The scientist, who is considered the "Muslim father" of the bomb, declared that it has already been tested on a simulator [modeliruyushchiy stend].

If this is so, the worst fears will be confirmed -- the program being implemented by Pakistan in the sphere of nuclear power generation was not at all aimed at the peaceful use of the atom, as officially claimed, but, above all, at the creation of mass destruction weapons. Of course, the Pakistani authorities hasteneed to refute the scientist's words, but few people believe them.

The leaders in Islamabad long ago conceived the intention of joining the "nuclear club." And they moved toward that goal with Washington's explicit, active assistance. As early as the fifties and sixties the United States trained a large group of nuclear physicists from that country, delivered the first nuclear reactor to Pakistan, and, resorting to various ruses and illegal actions, exported nuclear technology. In addition, the sizable dollar injections given by Washington to its "junior partner" within the framework of close military-political cooperation enabled the Pakistani ruling clique to spend huge amounts, in excess of 40 percent of the budget, on military purposes, including a nuclear program.

Even when it became obvious that Pakistan was, to use THE WASHINGTON POST's expression, "one turn of the screw" away from creating a bomb, R. Reagan's administration stubbornly ignored that fact. [paragraph continues]

Thus, at the end of last year, citing a secret report by the U.S. Defense Department, the U.S. press reported that Pakistan, completing the program, had tested a powerful detonating device designed for a nuclear weapon. And what did the administration do? It disregarded the report. This is indicated by its recent demand for the so-called Symington amendment, which U.S. legislators adopted in the past and which prohibits military and economic aid to regimes that create nuclear weapons, to be suspended with regard to Pakistan.

The stand taken by the White House, which verbally campaigns for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons while in fact indulging the Islamabad regime's nuclear aspirations, can only be called hypocritical.

The reason for the Reagan administration's "night blindness" is clear: The obedient ally, armed to the teeth and, moreover, possessing nuclear weapons, whose territory serves as a bridgehead for the "undeclared war" against Afghanistan and is intended to serve as a transit base for the American "Rapid Deployment Force," fits well into the scheme of the U.S. military's strategic plans in Asia.

Pakistan's nuclear ambitions arouse legitimate concern among many nonaligned states -- India above all -- which see them as a serious threat to their security and to peace and stability in the Asian region.

In our times, when the need to put an end to nuclear weapons forever is particularly obvious, Washington and Islamabad, by spurring on the nuclear arms race in developing countries, are assuming a particularly grave responsibility.

PAKISTANI PRESIDENT'S FEB VISIT TO INDIA VIEWED

PM251515 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 87 Morning Edition p 5

[IZVESTIYA Press Service report: "On the Pakistani President's Visit to India"]

[Text] President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan, who is visiting Delhi, went by Indian military aircraft on Sunday to Jaipur where he watched a cricket match.

Recently the Indian and foreign mass media have been paying considerable attention to the Pakistani president's visit to India and his talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The newspapers stress that their meeting took place against the background of the implementation of an earlier accord on the withdrawal of the two countries' armed forces from their common border. UPI points out in this context that a total of 150,000 military servicemen have "returned to peacetime positions."

UPI also notes that during the 45-minute meeting between the Indian and Pakistani leaders it was decided to continue the process of the normalization of relations between the two countries. Specifically, a decision was taken to begin preparations for the resumption of the work of the Indian and Pakistani trade missions. Meanwhile the press is citing the comment by Indian External Affairs Minister N.D. Tiwari, who stated that the Pakistani president brought no concrete proposals to break the deadlock in Indian-Pakistani relations on border questions.

COMMENTARY ON SHEVARDNADZE INDOCHINA VISIT

OW131340 Moscow International Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Grammatchikov commentary]

[Text] As far as Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs Shevardnadze's tour of Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam is concerned, all relevant parties have paid special attention to the situation in Southeast Asia.

The Soviet Union has consistently sided with the fraternal Indochinese countries in an effort to normalize the situation in this region and turn it into a zone of peace, good neighborliness, and cooperation. This principled position of the CPSU and the Soviet state was once again reaffirmed in the talks between the Soviet minister of foreign affairs and the leaders of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

The Soviet people are fully aware of their Vietnamese, Lao, and Cambodian friends' sincere desire to live in peace and build relations with other Southeast Asian countries in accordance with the principles of respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. As everyone knows, these principles are fully consistent with the criteria of international law and the UN Charter and are not opposed by civilized countries because the question is to avoid hindering the implementation of these consistent principles under the specific conditions that currently prevail in this region.

In the talks in Vientiane, Phnom Penh, and Hanoi, Comrade Shevardnadze stressed that in the settlement of tasks related to the protection of freedom and independence, the development of overall cooperation, and the solidarity and mutual assistance among the three Indochinese countries and in the promotion of peace and stability in this region, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam can rely on the consistent Soviet aid.

As we know, the crux of the problem in this region is the situation around Cambodia. What is important here is that a constructive, positive attitude can help create the possibility of settling the situation through political means, without intimidation and violence.

The Indochinese countries have manifested such an attitude, which has been welcomed and supported by the Soviet Union and further understood in the international arena. In fact, Comrade Shevardnadze stated that the effort made by Cambodian leadership to begin talks with various Khmer opposition groups or with individuals constitutes a positive progress along the path toward national reconciliation and normalization of the situation around Cambodia. Of course, the imperative condition here is the exclusion of the criminal Pol Pot clique. People with a sound mind understand that the Cambodian people will never allow the bloodthirsty Pol Pot clique to return to power in Cambodia.

In the international arena, everyone is aware of the scheme of using the United Nations to cover up the interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. The Soviet Union condemns such a scheme.

As in the past, we advocate maintenance of Cambodia's legal position at the United Nations as well as in other international organizations. The Indochinese countries' initiatives to improve the political atmosphere in Southeast Asia are of great significance in the international arena.

In their talks, Comrades Shevardnadze and Nguyen Van Linh stressed that, together with the Soviet initiatives regarding its foreign policy, the Indochinese countries' initiatives have created a good basis for achieving peace, stability, and justice in the Asian-Pacific region.

U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE 'OPPOSED' BY FILIPINOS

OW131343 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1143 GMT 12 Mar 87

[From "The World Today" program, presented by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov]

[Text] A massive protest demonstration took place in front of the U.S. Embassy in Manila against the U.S. military presence in the Philippines. [Video shows demonstrations, riot police] Participants at the demonstration condemned the Pentagon's intentions to broaden the delivery of weapons to the Philippines, and demanded the immediate liquidation of U.S. military bases deployed in this country's territory.

Recently, there have been signs that the White House has increased interference in the domestic affairs of the Philippines. A few days ago, Gaston Sigur, the U.S. assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs, was sent there. He met with representative Philippine ranking officers and discussed the question of broadening punitive operation against Philippine rebels.

Commenting on the visit of the American emissary, the Philippine newspaper MALAYA wrote that the Reagan administration's provoking a civil war in the Philippines is in contradiction to the policies of Corazon Aquino, which are directed at solving the rebel movement problem in the country, primarily by peaceful, political means.

By interfering in the domestic affairs of the Philippines, the United States has, as its goal, the preservation and strengthening of the status of its military bases in the Philippines Archipelago, particularly the two largest outside the United States -- Clark Field and Subic Bay.

SUPREME COURT DELEGATION VISITS THAILAND

PM071741 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] A USSR Supreme Court delegation headed by First Deputy Chairman S.I. Gusev has spent a week in Thailand. The Soviet guests were received by Ukrit Mongkolnavin, president of the Thai National Assembly; (Chamrat Kemachar), chairman of the Supreme Court; Chatchai Chunhawan, deputy prime minister; and Sa-at Piyawan, minister of justice.

During the meetings and talks the sides exchanged opinions on a wide range of questions of the activities of legal organs.

HONECKER, FRG'S SPAETH DISCUSS DISARMAMENT

LD162253 Moscow TASS in English 2154 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Berlin March 16 TASS -- Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and chairman of the Council of State of the GDR, received Lothar Spaeth, deputy chairman of the Christian Democratic Union of the FRG and Baden-Wuerttemberg minister-president, here today.

During the talk held in a businesslike and frank atmosphere both sides stated that the prime goal of modern politics was to secure and strengthen peace. This was the key issue in relations between the GDR and the FRG.

Erich Honecker emphasised that the Soviet-American summit meeting in Reykjavik had confirmed the possibility of reaching practical agreements in the sphere of disarmament. The chances that have emerged should not be sacrificed to the U.S. "Star Wars" programme.

The GDR hails and supports the proposal by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to conclude a treaty on the elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

The GDR leader said that as the issue of missiles concerned both the GDR and the FRG, he had called on Chancellor Helmut Kohl of the FRG to support the Soviet initiative and to positively influence the United States.

Lothar Spaeth expressed his approval of the appraisal that viewed the Soviet proposal as creating the possibility to begin curbing the arms race and to start disarmament in Europe. He said the FRG favoured ridding Europe of the medium-range missiles.

Both sides stated that relations between the GDR and the FRG were an important element of European cooperation. If they are guided by their duty in securing peace, they will be able to favourably influence the international climate.

HONECKER REITERATES SUPPORT OF INF PROPOSAL

LD081942 Moscow TASS in English 1850 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Berlin March 8 TASS -- "The German Democratic Republic (GDR) supports the Soviet Union's new important initiative concerning the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe. The initiative gives an opportunity really to make the European Continent a zone free from nuclear weapons," Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SUPG), chairman of the State Council of the GDR, stated today at a reception given by the SUPG Central Committee on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

"We are for the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe because it is essential to fight for peace in practice, not in words," the GDR's leader emphasized.

"If medium-range missiles disappear from the territory of Europe, there will be no need any longer for shorter-range theatre missiles either. It will be possible to solve these issues through talks, too."

GDR ARMY, GSFG TO HOLD EXERCISES 23-30 MARCH

LD161807 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1725 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Berlin, 16 Mar (ADN) -- In accordance with plan, a joint troop exercise of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and of the National Peoples Army of the GDR will take place from 23 to 30 March 1987 in the region of Gardelegen, Magdeburg, Wittenberg, Luebben, and Brandenburg. Up to 25,000 members of the two fraternal armies are taking part. The goal of the exercise is to perfect the training of the troops. The leader of the exercise is the commander in chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany.

In accordance with the concluding document of the Stockholm conference, all states that signed the Helsinki Final Acts were notified of the exercise. At the same time observers from them were invited.

LIZICHEV ATTENDS GSFG KOMSOMOL CONFERENCE

PM081749 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 87 Second Edition p 2

[Own correspondents Lieutenant Colonel A. Vasilets and Lieutenant Colonel I. Kosenko report under the rubric "Komsomol Conferences": "A Time of Concrete Action"]

[Excerpts] Group of Soviet Forces in Germany -- Metaphorically speaking, the Komsomol conference got under way and was having an impact long before its official opening. The political directorate of the group of forces made sure the theses of the report were passed on to units and subunits. The main aim was to ensure that the discussion at the conference was to the point, that it reflected the concerns and interests of all the young people and their readiness to overcome the phenomena of stagnation in Komsomol work and to worthily resolve the great and responsible tasks facing them.

It must be said that the discussion was indeed businesslike and exacting. In the report of Major A. Khramtsov, assistant chief of the political directorate of the group of forces for Komsomol work, and in delegates' speeches many examples of the restructuring of Komsomol work which has begun were cited. Pioneers of restructuring are making their mark and the new approaches are yielding concrete results and tangible advances in combat training, in the struggle for rigorous discipline and regulation order, and in the greater cohesion of the multinational military collectives. [passage omitted]

The Komsomol conference participants were addressed by Army General A. Lizichev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Army General V. Belikov, commander in chief of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany; and I. Ordzhonikidze, secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee.

The Komsomol conference was attended by V. Kochemasov, USSR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the GDR; Colonel General B. Utkin; Colonel General V. Meretskov; Lieutenant General N. Moiseyev, member of the military council and chief of the political directorate of the group of forces; and Major I. Yefimov, assistant to the chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate for Komsomol work.

GDR, USSR SIGN NUCLEAR POWER SAFETY TREATY

LD162029 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1616 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 16 Mar (ADN) -- State Secretary Professor Dr Georg Sitzlack, director of the GDR State Office for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection; and Minister Vadim Malyshev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Safety in the Atomic Power Industry, on Monday in Moscow signed a treaty on cooperation in the field of supervision of safety in the use of nuclear energy.

The treaty is based on the long years of good cooperation between the two countries in all issues linked with the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It was adapted to current requirements, taking into account international developments as mirrored in programs of the International Atomic Energy Agency and of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. On the occasion of the signing, the two sides were in agreement in saying that the treaty is an important step, within the framework of socialist integration, toward safeguarding the protection of mankind and the environment in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

ZHIVKOV RECEIVES PRC'S WU XUEQIAN FOR TALKS

LD162035 Moscow TASS In English 1607 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Sofia March 3 [date as received] TASS -- Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, chairman of the Council of State of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, has received today Wu Xueqian, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, PRC foreign minister.

During the meeting it was pointed out that no task is more important and urgent in the complex international situation today than to preserve peace, the BTA agency said. The Bulgarian leader said that his country is prepared for cooperation with the PRC in the fight for disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, for preventing the militarization of outer space, lessening international tensions and for peaceful coexistence.

PRC Minister Leaves Sofia

LD161519 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1442 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Sofia, 16 Mar (TASS) -- Wu Xueqian, member of the CPC Central Committee Politburo, member of the State Council and PRC minister of foreign affairs, departed here today. He was in Bulgaria on an official visit. At the airport in the capital he was seen off by Petur Mladenov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, and by other officials.

ZHIVKOV ON 'NEW IMPETUS' OF RESTRUCTURING

PM101649 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Full Support"]

[Text] Sofia, 6 Mar -- The BCP fully supports the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum, which is rightly being assessed as historic. [paragraph continues]

The decisions are giving Bulgarian Communists new impetus in implementing profound restructuring at the present turning point in their development, stressed T. Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council. He was speaking here at a party and economic aktiv meeting which discussed the progress in carrying out the resolutions of the BCP Central Committee December Plenum and the national economic plan for the current year.

The report noted that the 13th BCP Congress put forward the strategic course of ensuring qualitatively new growth in all spheres of our society's life. This course envisages the implementation of a scientific and technical revolution in the country and the development of socialist democracy, the core of which is socialist self-management. Of course, these most important tasks are now facing all the socialist countries.

It is now vitally important, T. Zhivkov noted, that the party, economic and social organizations, and each collective and worker realize that restructuring must be implemented everywhere and on a broad front. To achieve this a high standard of organization, order, and discipline is necessary.

PRAVDA CITES ZHIVKOV ENDORSEMENT OF INF PROPOSAL

PM091253 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Mar First Edition p 1

[From roundup of PRAVDA own correspondent and TASS reports under the general heading: "For Europe's Peaceful Future. Foreign Responses to M.S. Gorbachev's Statement"]

[Text] Sofia, 5 Mar -- The people and government of Bulgaria warmly hail and support the initiative advance in the statement of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, which is further proof of the sincere, farsighted, and dynamic nature of Soviet foreign policy and a model of the new political thinking and the new approach to international affairs. This is stated in the reply published today of T. Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, to a RABOTNICHESKO DELO question.

The Soviet initiative, the Bulgarian leader pointed out, is an inalienable part of the historic program of the USSR and its allies to create an all-embracing system of international security. There is no doubt that, in advancing the noble new initiative, the Soviet Union is guided by the desire to revive the spirit of Reykjavik and give a strong boost to the USSR-U.S. talks on ending the arms race and on the final and irrevocable elimination of mass destruction weapons in the name of the most lofty and humane goal of saving civilization and life on the planet.

The Soviet leader's proposal is well founded and timely: The process of nuclear disarmament must begin in European territory -- the area of the planet most saturated with this kind of weapon.

We believe that an improvement in the international situation demands indefatigable efforts not only on the part of militarily powerful states but also by medium and small countries. Guided by this understanding, the BCP and the Bulgarian Government are implementing a consistent and principled policy of peace and equitable international cooperation. As we have repeatedly declared, there are no nuclear weapons on Bulgarian territory. The Bulgarian people have a profound interest in reducing arms and in strengthening peace and the security of all states.

Bulgaria is doing and will do everything in its power to develop fruitful cooperation and good-neighborliness in the Balkans and in Europe. Its efforts in creating a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons on the Balkan Peninsula are also aimed at this.

I am profoundly convinced, T. Zhivkov pointed out, that the new Soviet proposal will be supported by the broadest public circles in all countries. We continue to be ready to cooperate actively with governments, political parties, organizations, and movements which are waging a struggle for a nuclear-free world, for a world without wars or weapons.

Atanasov Welcomes Proposal

LD071351 Moscow TASS in English 1325 GMT 7 Mar 87

[Text] Sofia March 7 TASS — Georgi Atanasov, chairman of Bulgaria's Council of Ministers, has pointed out a great importance of the new Soviet initiative which was proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), on February 28. "We fully support the proposal on immediate conclusion of an agreement on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe," Georgi Atanasov said when speaking at a meeting with Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister of Iraq, visiting here.

SLYUNKOV RECEIVES HUNGARIAN PARTY DELEGATION

LD060215 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2245 GMT 5 Mar 87

[From the "Novosti" newscast; no video available]

[Text] Under the plan for interparty relations between the CPSU and MSZMP, a group of party workers of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party was in Moscow from 2 to 5 March. They familiarized themselves with the experience of the CPSU in refining the administration and management of the economy and the progress of restructuring the mechanism of foreign economic relations. They held conversations at departments of the CPSU Central Committee, the Moscow City Committee of the CPSU, USSR Gosplan, and the State Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The Hungarian comrades were received by Comrade Slyunkov. Rajnai, the ambassador of the Hungarian People's Republic to the USSR, took part in the conversation, which was held in a warm and comradely atmosphere.

PRAVDA NOTES NIKONOV MEETING WITH MSZMP'S BERECZ

PM111232 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Talk at the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] A meeting took place 10 March between V.P. Nikonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and F. Berecz, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers. During the talk, which took place in a warm, comradely atmosphere, certain questions of Soviet-Hungarian cooperation were discussed.

S. Rajnai, Hungarian ambassador to the USSR, took part in the talk.

CPSU FARMING EXPERTS VISIT POLAND 2-7 MAR

PM091639 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Mar 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading "Interparty Ties"]

[Text] In accordance with the plan for ties between the CPSU and PZPR a CPSU delegaton visited Poland from 2 through 7 March. The following were in the delegation: Twice Hero of Socialist Labor D.K. Motornyy, member of the CPSU Central Committe and chairman of the Ukrainian SSR's Kirov Kolhkoz; Twice Hero of Socialist Labor V.M. Cherdintsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and combine operator at Orenburg Oblast's "Rassvet" Kolkhoz; Hero of Socialist Labcr N.V. Pereverzeva, member of the CPSU Central Committee and link leader of a crop-farming team at the Tajik SSR's "Karksi" Kolkhoz.

The delegation learned about the work experience of PZPR organizations and labor collectives of a number of agricultural enterprises in Wroclaw and Opole Voivodships. It was received by Z. Michalek, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PZPR Central Committee.

NIKONOV, SFRY OFFICIAL DISCUSS AGRICULTURE PLANS

LD111136 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0934 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 11 Mar (TANJUG) -- Viktor Nikonov, secretary in the CPSU Central Committee, today had talks with Milojko Veljovic, chairman of the PKB [Belgrade agricultural combine] management board and of the Yugoslav consortium for cooperation in the agro-industrial complex.

Milan Veres, Yugoslav ambassador in the USSR, also took part in the talks which concentrated on future plans in Yugoslav-Soviet cooperation in agriculture and the food processing industry.

It was agreed that cooperation between the two economies in this sphere is developing successfully and that the formation of a consortium by the Yugoslav side contributed to an improvement in coordinating work and to increased efficiency in carrying out business. The two sides also agreed that there are favorable prospects for continued cooperation and construction of new agro-industrial combines near (?Moscow) and other cities as well as for stepping up cooperation on a long-term basis.

YAKOVLEV, DELEGATION CONTINUE VISIT TO SPAIN

Meetings With Parliamentarians

PM161229 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading "Soviet Parliamentarians in Spain"]

[Text] Madrid, 12 Mar -- On 11 March the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers' Foreign Affairs Commission headed by A.N. Yakovlev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commission, met Jose Federico de Carvahal, speaker of the Senate (the upper house of Spain's Cortes Generales), and members of the Senate Presidium.

Introducing senators from various political parties to the Soviet guests, J.F. de Carvahal conveyed on their behalf cordial greetings to the USSR Supreme Soviet deputies. He stressed that the Spanish public is showing exceptionally great interest in the Soviet people's life and the USSR's domestic and foreign policy. Spain is attentatively following the restructuring process and the improvement of society taking place in the Soviet Union. The USSR's broad foreign policy initiatives aimed at restricting the arms race and ensuring disarmament have also met with a wide response.

Spanish parliamentarians are pleased to have the opportunity to obtain first-hand information about the USSR Supreme Soviet's domestic and international activity. For their part they are prepared to familiarize their Soviet colleagues with present-day Spanish reality and with the things that currently alarm and concern Spaniards. J.F. de Carvahal expressed the conviction that this exchange of opinions would promote the development of mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries and a general improvement of the situation in the world.

When I was in the USSR and visited the Piskarevskiy Memorial Cemetery in Leningrad, the Senate speaker continued, I realized that Soviet people simply cannot want a war and that their only wish is to ensure lasting peace among the peoples. And we must all act so as to prevent the worst happening.

In his return speech A.N. Yakovlev noted that a great deal has been done since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Spain 10 years ago. Political dialogue has not just been resumed, it has been raised to a high level and is distinguished by its rich content. Our ties are also developing in other specific spheres.

We are now living at a special time, the head of the Soviet delegation went on to say. For the first time in its entire history mankind is faced with an unprecedented choice: either continuing further down the undefined and zigzag line which marked the history of the past, or firmly and resolutely taking its destiny into its own hands.

We are convinced that any country -- big, small, or medium-sized -- has its own contribution to make in this area. This fully applies to Spain, too -- a country with rich traditions of participation in international affairs.

A.N. Yakovlev dwelt in detail on the profound revolutionary transformations in the USSR, stressing that restructuring is a step forward by a young society full of energy and optimism that has gained experience, recognized its importance and place in the world, and seen the way ahead stretching before it. Of course, it will require enormous work, a breakthrough, and the renovation of all aspects of social life.

The tasks we are setting ourselves are bound up with each other in the closest possible way. The economic tasks are bound up with the social and spiritual tasks. And all are linked with the political tasks. Domestic problems are bound up with international problems. Hence the particular stress which we are currently striving to lay on a comprehensive and integral approach to restructuring both in theory and in practice.

The delegation members attended a luncheon given by the Senate speaker in their honor. The speeches exchanged by J.F. de Carvahal and A.N. Yakovlev expressed the striving of both countries' parliamentarians to make their own contribution to bringing the two countries' peoples closer together, deepening their mutual understanding, and normalizing the situation in the world.

The delegation visited Madrid municipality, where it was greeted by Juan Barranco, mayor of the Spanish capital.

Your visit, he said in particular, is a new manifestation of the friendship and cooperation between the twin cities of Madrid and Moscow, and between the Spanish and Soviet peoples. I am sure that it will serve to further strengthen and expand friendly ties between our countries.

Activities in Barcelona

PM161519 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS reports under the general heading: "Tour of Spain"]

[Text] Madrid, 13 Mar -- The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers' Foreign Affairs Commissions has left on a tour of the country. Before leaving Madrid, delegation leader A.N. Yakovlev, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commission, spoke on Spanish television.

Barcelona, 13 Mar -- On the same day the delegation arrived in Barcelona, the administrative center of Catalonia, which is one of the economically most developed regions in Spain.

The Soviet parliamentarians attended a session of the Catalan autonomous parliament. Deputies representing all the parliamentary parties in the autonomous parliament greeted the Soviet guests with applause.

Addressing the delegates, M. Coll, speaker of the parliament, stressed that in Catalonia, as in other parts of Spain, great interest is shown in the Soviet Union and its history and culture and in the everyday life of all the nationalities of the USSR. Your visit, he added, is a great and noteworthy event for us. We are convinced that it will be an important new milestone in the development of friendship between the peoples of the USSR and Spain.

At a meeting with leaders of the parliament A.N. Yakovlev thanked them for their hospitality. During our stay in your country, he said, we have had interesting and useful conversations with the head of the Spanish state, the chairman of the government, parliamentarians, and prominent political and social figures. The visit to Catalonia enables us to establish new friendly contacts and broaden the base of mutual understanding and cooperation between our peoples.

The Soviet delegation was received by J. Pujol, premier of the Catalan Autonomous Government. He spoke about Spanish business circles' interest in establishing closer trade ties wth the USSR. In the Spanish side's opinion, he noted, considerable potential exists for expanding trade between Spain and the USSR to their mutual benefit. This potential must be fully used by both sides.

A.N. Yakovlev stressed the need to move dialogue on economic cooperation questions into the sphere of concrete practical deeds.

During the exchange of opinions, both sides expressed the readiness to begin seeking bold new solutions capable of giving a powerful impetus to economic cooperation between the two countries.

At the Barcelona City Council Mayor of Barcelona P. Maragall greeted the USSR Supreme Soviet deputies warmly. He asked the delegation members to inform Soviet people that Barcelona's inhabitants are sincerely happy at their successes and wish the USSR's peoples happiness and prosperity.

Barcelona, P. Maragall continued, is twinned with Leningrad. These are two major maritime cities which are open to peace, friendship, and progress. In the past their inhabitants courgeously resisted the enemy and now they are making a great contribution to economic and social progress and to the development of science and art. We people of Barcelona believe that the twinned cities movement and the establishment of closer contacts between people help to bring the peoples closer together and strengthen international peace.

On the Soviet delegation's behalf, A.N. Yakovlev cordially thanked the mayor of Barcelona for the warm reception. We were pleased to hear, he said, that you are striving to develop friendly ties with Leningrad -- a city which, during the war years; resisted the enemy heroically. We fervently welcome your determination to develop cooperation with our country in the interests of international peace. For their part, Soviet people will continue doing their utmost to ensure that this cooperation becomes stronger, develops, and gathers momentum.

The delegation visited the Olympics center in Barcelona and familiarized itself with the preparations for the 1992 summer Olympics.

TASS, SPAIN'S EFE SIGN COOPERATION PROTOCOL

PM131603 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Protocol Signed"]

[Text] Madrid, 12 Mar -- A protocol on cooperation between TASS and the Spanish news agency EFE has been signed in Madrid. The protocol was signed by Alfonso Sobrado Palomares, president and director general of EFE, and A.A. Krasikov, deputy general director of TASS.

ESTONIAN VISIT ISSUE FOR PORTUGUESE DELEGATION

Welcome From Supreme Soviet

LD111339 Moscow TASS in English 1206 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS — A delegation of the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic led by Assembly President Fernando Monteiro Do Amaral today paid a visit to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The delegation arrived in the USSR at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet on March 10. It was welcomed at the airport by Arnold Ryuytel, a vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and other officials. The welcoming party included Sergio de Sacadura-Cabral, Portugal's ambassador to the USSR.

Welcoming the visitors, Avgust Voss, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, said that the parliamentarians of the two countries had many points of contact, primarily in the matter of ensuring lasting peace and averting nuclear catastrophe. Your visit, he said, will help build understanding between the peoples of the two countries and improve state-to-state relations.

Fernando Monteiro do Amaral expressed the conviction that parliamentary contacts between the two countries were on the right track. It is necessary to build understanding on the urgent problems of our time on the basis of equality between the peoples and non-interference in their internal affairs. He noted with satisfaction that he was leading a delegation which represented all the political factions of Portuguese Parliament.

Yevgeniy Perventsev, a deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Sergio de Sacadura-Cabral took part in the conversation.

The delegation laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier by the Kremlin wall.

Reception by Demichev

PM161433 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Portuguese Parliamentarians Received"]

[Text] P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, received a delegation of the Portuguese Assembly of the Republic headed by its president Fernando Monteiro do Amaral in the Kremlin 13 March.

P.N. Demichev told them about the new stage of development the USSR has entered. He emphasized that the aim of restructuring is to make fuller use of the potential inherent in the very nature of Soviet society. The USSR, he said, is filled with a sense of responsibility for the fate of civilization. This is clearly reflected in its constructive comprehensive approach to the solution of problems pertaining to international security and in its peace initiatives, in particular its new proposal to achieve an agreement between the USSR and the United States on the elimination of medium-range missiles from Europe without delay.

F. Monteiro do Amaral declared that he favors the Soviet efforts aimed at eradicating nuclear missiles from the continent of Europe and creating a nuclear-free world.

Both sides reaffirmed the expediency of new steps to further develop relations between the USSR and Portugal and to raise the level and expand the range of the problems discussed in the course of the Soviet-Portuguese political dialogue.

The talk, which passed in a frank and friendly atmosphere, was attended by A.E. Voss, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet of Nationalities; T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Ye.I. Perventsev, USSR Supreme Soviet deputy; other officials; and also Sergio de Sacadura-Cabral, Portuguese ambassador to the USSR.

The delegation had a conversation with A.E. Voss and chairmen and members of USSR Supreme Soviet standing commissions.

The meeting participants briefed each other on the activities of their respective parliaments. The guests showed lively interest in many aspects of restructuring and the process of further democratization of Soviet society. An exchange of views was also held on the prospects for the development and deepening of contacts between the two parliaments and on certain international problems.

Do Amaral News Conference

PM161225 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Mar Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "Press Conference Held"]

[Text] Fernando Monteiro do Amaral, president of the Portuguese Assembly of the Republic (parliament), gave a press conference at the Sovetskaya Hotel in Moscow 13 March.

The head of the delegation emphasized that progressive public circles in Portugal are following the positive changes which are currently taking place in the Soviet Union with interest and approval.

"As an advocate of peace, I fully support the recent Soviet proposal for the elimination of medium-range missiles from Europe and, incidentally, all other initiatives aimed at removing nuclear weapons not just from the face of the earth but also from people's consciousness," the Portuguese parliamentarian said. [Moscow TASS in English at 1839 GMT on 13 March, in a similar report on Do Amaral's new conference, adds at this point: He expressed surprise over his government's instructions saying it was "untimely" that the parliamentary delegation visit the USSR's Baltic republics, specifically Estonia.] "I hope to come back to your hospitable country more than once. Although the weather in Moscow was unusually cold for me, the warm and cordial contacts with Soviet people made up for this relative inconvenience."

Biryukov on Estonia Ban

LD132129 Moscow TASS in English 1958 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Askold Biryukov writes:

The Portuguese Government prohibited a delegation of Portuguese members of parliament, now staying in the USSR, to visit the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The visit to Estonia, alongside visits to other areas, was on the programme of its stay in the USSR.

Trying to explain this strange action, taken after deputies of the Assembly of the Republic left for the USSR, Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva made a reference to some "reservations" about the status of the three Soviet Baltic republics. But reservations are not the point of the matter. Head of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation, President of the Assembly of the Republic Fernando Monteiro do Amaral stated officially that the Portuguese Foreign Ministry had had no reservations or remarks about the programme of the delegation's visit to the USSR.

Therefore, the government's statement issued during the delegation's visit came as an utter surprise for it. Besides that, a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, headed by President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic Arnod Ryuytel visited Portugal in 1985 and was given a warm reception.

Under the government's pressure the Portuguese parliamentary delegation had to alter the programme of its stay in the USSR which had earlier been agreed upon. It was with regrets that the delegation gave up the visit to Estonia.

The stance of the Portuguese authorities cannot but cause amazement. Are Lisbon officials unaware of the fact that far from all NATO countries observe the threadbare bans for whose observance Lisbon declares? It would not be amiss in this connection to recall if only last year's Soviet-American meeting in the resort of Jurmala, not far from Riga, the capital of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic. The striving of the peoples of the USSR and the USA to get to know each other better was clearly manifested at that meeting in which representatives of different ideologies, including professional politicians, took part. Getting to know each other better is, apparently, the aim of the visit of the Portuguese parliamentarians to the USSR.

Present at the meeting in Jurmala were, for instance, such representatives of the U.S. Administration as special assistant to the President for national security affairs and senior director of European and Soviet affairs on the National Security Council staff Jack Matlock (head of the delegation), special assistant to the President and White House Deputy Press Secretary Edward Djerejian, U.S. Ambassador to Hungary Mark Palmer.

Obviously, the "reservations" to which Lisbon officials make a reference, have not prevented Washington officials from arriving for that meeting and getting first hand notion of real life in one of the Soviet Baltic republics.

One gets the impression that by their actions the Portuguese authorities try to outdo their senior partners in NATO. But such actions, far from meeting with support in Portugal, are condemned by the public and various political parties, according to EFE correspondent, these actions were condemned by the Social Democratic Centre and the Democratic Renewal Party. They were condemned by former President Marshal Francisco da Costa Gomes, who is signatory to the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe that sanctified the present borders of European countries. The Portuguese Communist party described the government's action as a shameless attempt to humiliate parliament.

And Portuguese newspapers linked the issuing of the government statement with the visit to Lisbon by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations General Vernon Walters, who is notorious for the reason that when he held a high post in the U.S. CIA, he headed the "dirty tricks" department, was responsible for masterminding subversive operations and interference in internal affairs of sovereign states. His visit to Portugal was followed by the directives of the Portuguese Government to the parliamentary delegation to alter the visit's programme.

The government's demand put in a very awkward position the delegation of the Assembly of the Republic which includes people who are held in high esteem in Portugal. "This has been done against our will," said the head of the delegation. He said that that decision had apparently been taken for some external reasons and had been motivated by the observance of "NATO discipline". He said the government's statement did not go together with steps toward the development of bilateral relations which had been taken since the moment diplomatic relations were established between the two countries.

In the present age it is necessary for peoples and governments more than ever to have realistic stands, to know each other as much as possible, so there is a need for communicating and talking with each other as much as possible. This is so necessary for the creation of confidence, for the widening of interaction and cooperation in the interests of ensuring a peaceful future on earth. It is clear, however, that Lisbon's action cannot be viewed as other than an unfriendly act, as an attempt to hamper the strengthening of relations between the USSR and Portugal. The minority government has no right to impose its will on parliament which represents the entire country, the head of the delegation said.

'Indignation' in Portugal

LD141411 Moscow TASS in English 1323 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Lisbon March 14 TASS — A decison by Lisbon to ban a visit to the Estonian Republic by a Portuguese parliamentary delegation staying in the USSR provoked indignation, perplexity and shame among the Portuguese public at large for an extremely zealous pro-American policy of the authorities.

In the opinion of deputies to the Republic's assembly from the Portuguese Communist Party, the Democratic Renewal Party and the Portuguese Democratic Movement, the position of the Silva Cabinet put in doubt both Parliament's prestige and Portugal's dignity as an independent state.

Deputy Manuel Alegre, a prominent functionary of the Socialist Party, told journalists on Friday that the government had violated basic rules of international relations.

Denouncing the foreign policy pursued by the present Portuguese Cabinet of Ministers, the newspaper "DIARIO DE LISBOA" writes about the recent ban by the authorities on a photo exhibition on Berlin to be held in Lisbon, which was prepared by the GDR's embassy. The function had to be cancelled after invitation cards had been sent out. Such scandalous actions, the newspaper points out, do not conform to Portugal's interests as an independent state.

The newspaper "DIARIO" also censured the authorities' servile policy towards Washington and the most aggressive NATO quarters. In its opinion, the prime minister tried to challenge the Helsinki agreement recognizing inviolability of state borders in Europe, under which Portugal had also put its signature.

The newspaper regards the crude pressure brought to bear by the government on the president of the Republic's legislature inadmissible in present-day Portugal, on the eve of the 13th anniversary of victory of the anti-Fascist revolution.

Delegation's Departure

LD161004 Moscow TASS in English 0955 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS -- A delegation of the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic led by Fernando Monteiro do Amaral, president of the Assembly, left Moscow for home today. The delegation was staying in the USSR on an official visit at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) of the USSR.

FRG'S GENSCHER SPEAKS ON EAST-WEST 'TURNING POINT'

LD151614 Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Bonn March 15 TASS -- West Germany's Minister for Foreign Affairs Hans-Dietrich Genscher has made the following statement at the congress of the Free Democratic Party of the Northern Rhine-Westphalia Land:

Bold decisions projected far into the future are necessary in West-East relations. The West should give a collective political answer to what Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, calls "new thinking", a "new policy" of the Soviet Union.

The point at issue is a favourable opportunity and that it is necessary not to miss that opportunity while it exists. Obviously, Gorbachev's policy, according to which his new words are to be followed by deeds, is in the West's interests. The Soviet Union, which has set its sights on cooperation and openness, is, in terms of ensuring peace, a better partner than the Soviet Union clinging tenaciously to the old cliches of thinking and withdrawn in itself.

If today there is a chance to reach a turning-point after 40 years of confrontation in West-East relations, it would be on the part of the West an error of an historical scale to miss that chance only because the West cannot give up the mentality according to which when looking at the Soviet Union the worst out of the possible versions is assumed.

We are ready to mark the start of a comprehensive disarmament process and create security structures on the basis of cooperation with the following aim: the right to equal security for all. We are prepared to develop large-scale economic cooperation, which will help the Soviet Union in modernising its economy, towards the development of that vast land rich in natural resources, and this, in its turn, will ensure for us economic growth and jobs.

FOREIGN MINISTRY GREETS GENSCHER ON APPOINTMENT

PM131405 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Text] To His Excellency Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, deputy chancellor and foreign minister of the FRG:

Accept our congratulations and best wishes on your appointment to the post of federal foreign minister.

We are convinced that cooperation between the Soviet Union and the FRG with the aim of strengthening security and reducing the arms race would offer new prospects for the rebirth of detente and the development of relations between our countries on the basis of genuine good neighborliness and trust.

The USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

IZVESTIYA OUTLINES KOHL GOVERNMENT DECISIONS

PM131457 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "FRG: Chancellor Elected"]

[Text] Bonn, 12 Mar -- The election of the FRG chancellor has taken place in the Bundestag formed in accordance with the results of the recent parliamentary elections.

As expected, Helmut Kohl (CDU) [Christian Democratic Union] has been elected chancellor for the next 4 years by the deputies of the majority ruling parties, the CDU, the CSU [Christian Social Union] and the FDP [Free Democratic Party]. He polled 253 votes with 224 against. Six deputies abstained. Tomorrow Kohl will present his new cabinet to the Bundestag.

During the talks among the parties of the ruling conservative-liberal coalition which lasted over 1 month, agreement was reached on the main points of the future government's program. The coalition partners agreed to postpone the solution of a number of contentious issues until the end of the year. This is because Landtag (stage parliament) elections are to be held in a number of West German states this year and the ruling parties do not want to wash their dirty linen in public or take unpopular decisions during those elections.

In the domestic policy sphere, these parties have stated their intention to continue a "realistic policy of detente." Confirming their commitment to the North Atlantic bloc, they expressed at the same time their readiness to improve relations with the socialist states. However, the coalition has not abandoned the arms buildup course for which the FRG budget allocated extra billions of marks.

In the economic sphere the coalition agreement reached by the ruling parties envisages a reduction of the taxes on monopolies while at the same time cutting spending on social needs.

As an alternative to the new bourgeois government's coalition the German Communist Party has put forward in particular demands such as giving a categorical "no" to the U.S. "Star Wars" program, unconditional support for the Soviet proposal to eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe, effective measures against mass unemployment, the reduction of taxes for those with low incomes, protection of citizens' democratic rights.

KOHL CONGRATULATED ON ELECTION AS CHANCELLOR

PM131451 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] To His Excellency Herr Helmut Kohl, Chancellor of the FRG:

Accept our congratulations on your election as chancellor of the FRG.

We express the hope that relations between the USSR and the FRG will develop in accordance with the Moscow Treaty and in the interests of our countries' peoples, the elimination of the nuclear threat, and the strengthening of universal security and peace.

The USSR Council of Ministers

VORONTSOV MEETS WITH MITTERRAND, RAIMOND IN PARIS

LD101938 Moscow TASS in English 1917 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Paris March 10 TASS -- President Francois Mitterrand of France received here today Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, who heads the Soviet delegation to the Soviet-American talks on nuclear and space arms.

Yuliy Vorontsov also had meetings and conversations with Jean-Bernard Raimond, minister of foreign affairs of France; Roland Dumas, chairman of the Foreign Relation Commission of the National Assembly; a number of senators and other French officials. Yakov Ryabov, ambassador of the USSR to France, took part in the meetings.

French leaders received explanations concerning the recent proposals advanced by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, for the elimination of the Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe and were informed about the course of Soviet-American talks in Geneva.

The sides also had an exchange of views on a number of international problems on which the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and France hold regular consultations.

MURAKHOVSKIY-LED DELEGATION ARRIVES IN FRANCE

LD081839 Moscow TASS in English 1815 GMT 8 Mar 87

[Text] Paris March 8 TASS -- A Soviet delegation led by Vsevolod Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, arrived in Paris today at the invitation of the Government of the French Republic.

At the capital's Orly Airport the delegation were met by Francois Guillaume, French minister of agriculture, and by Yakov Ryabov, the ambassador of the USSR to France.

Among the welcoming party was also Yves Pagniez, the ambassador of France to the USSR.

TASS NOTES BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH IRAN

LD161650 Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Damascus March 16 TASS -- Soviet-Iranian consultations on certain international and regional matters were held in Teheran on March 12-15.

Taking part in the consultations from the Soviet side were Lev Mendelevich, a member of the Collegium of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and Vil Boldyrev, ambassador of the USSR to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and from the Iranian side -- Javad Larijani and Hoseyn Sheykoleslam, deputy ministers of foreign affairs of Iran, and Maleki [name as received], director of the Center for Political and International Studies under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran.

RAFSANJANI'S REMARKS ON TOWER COMMISSION NOTED

LD141040 Moscow TASS in English 1025 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS -- By TASS commentator Vladimir Aleksandrov:

As speaker of the Iranian Majlis Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, the United States has recently made an attempt to mar relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union.

Addressing a meeting at Tehran University, he said that the report of the Tower Commission on U.S. arms supplies to Iran contains many absolutely false claims ascribed to Iranian officials. According to the Majlis speaker, the U.S. officials were trying to convince Tehran that the "Soviets intended to unleash a war" against Iran and presented a map showing "specific directions of Soviet invasion." It was claimed that the USSR "massed 36 army divisions for an attack against Iran."

Washington's inventions can be evaluated only as a deliberate crude provocation, a clumsy attempt at ascribing to the Soviet Union aggressive and hegemonistic aims pursued by the United States itself.

They in Iran have hardly forgotten that it was none other than the United States which was trying from the very outset to stifle the anti-Shah revolution in Iran. The USA is also responsible for the abortive operation for the release of hostages, in whose course it invaded Iran's territory and sent its naval force to the shores of Iran, threatening intervention, and clamped down an economic blockade on the Iranian republic.

The Soviet Union, on the contrary, was one of the first to recognize the Iranian revolution, strongly condemned U.S. interference in Iran's home affairs and at last foiled the economic blockade, by opening transit routes for Iranian cargoes.

Washington's attempts at presenting in a distorted light the USSR's stand on the Iran-Iraq conflict hold no water. From the very start of that senseless war the Soviet Union advocated an end to it as soon as possible and that the problems between Iran and Iraq be settled through negotiations. The recent statement by the Soviet Government containing an explicit and unequivocal call for a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict has met with broad international response.

The stand of the USA is diametrically opposite. While paying lip service to the "wish" for peace, it is, in fact, pouring oil into the flames of the Iran-Iraq war. It is not the Soviet Union, but the United States, which is preparing for armed interference in the Persian Gulf. Washington is holding secret talks with a number of states of the region on the deployment in their territory of units from among the interventionist "Rapid Deployment Force."

It is with the same aims that the Pentagon dispatched its three Air Force squadrons to the Incirlik air force base in south-east Turkey. Thus it is not the USSR, but the USA that is massing a strike force at the approaches to the Persian Gulf and Iran's borders.

Indeed, everybody has already got accustomed to such malicious inventions cooked up by Washington. They in the White House have already long tried to justify their own aggressive preparation and drive a wedge in the relations between the USSR and the nonaligned countries by references to a mythical "Soviet military threat." It is under cover of that through and through false pretext that the Pentagon is trying to force on the sovereign states its unsolicited "protection", trying to get from them military bases and "privileges", is openly building up its military presence in various parts of the world.

This time the crude and slanderous fabrication by the U.S. strategists has missed its aim. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has described it as "utter lies". The peoples of the world know too well that the United States is using the "Soviet menace" bugaboo to conceal Washington's neoglobalist designs and the wish to force its will on independent states and whole regions, clamp down imperialist control on them.

IRAQ'S HAMMUDI MEETS OFFICIAL IN MOSCOW

JN161701 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 16 Mar (INA) -- Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee of the Iraqi National Assembly, met here today with Avgust Eduardovich Voss, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Council of Nationalities and CPSU Central Committee member. Talks during the meeting dealt with international issues, issues of mutual interest, relations between the Iraqi National Assembly and the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the agenda of the international parliamentary conference which will convene in Nicaragua at the end of next month.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi also delivered to the USSR official a copy of the Iraqi draft working paper to the conference on pan-Arab causes, particularly the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Palestinian cause, the situation in Lebanon, and the continued Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi affirmed during the meeting Iraq is ready to halt the Iraqi-Iranian war in light of the five principles contained in President Saddam Husayn's message to the Iranian people. He also noted that parliaments must put pressure on Iran to make it end the war and submit to the international community's will.

ZAKHAROV-LED TU DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ADEN

LD162146 Moscow TASS in English 2146 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Aden March 16 TASS -- The delegation of the Soviet Services Trade Union, arrived at Aden today headed by Vladimir Zakharov, secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Services Trade Union, on a visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen that will last for several days.

In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY Zakharov expressed satisfaction with the visit hinting that it will enable the delegation to get acquainted with activity of the services trade union in the General Union of the Republic workers trade unions, and that exchange of expertise between both trade unions will be effected besides discussion of urgent issues of the international trade unions movement and world peace. [sentence as received]

JOINT COMMISSION EXAMINES SYRIAN IRRIGATION PLANS

LD162026 Moscow TASS in English 1611 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 16 TASS -- The first stage of a large irrigation system in western Meskene will be put on stream as early as this year. This system, which is under construction with the participation of Soviet organizations, will allow the irrigation of 50,000 hectares of farm land.

The 15th session of the sub-committee on irrigation of the Soviet-Syrian Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation, which ended in Moscow today, examined the realization of this and other irrigation projects under construction in the Syrin Arab Republic (SAR) with Soviet assistance.

The session discussed, among others, the issue of the agricultural development of other lands in the area of Meskene. There are plans to carry out work there to form a vertical system of drainage on an area of 1,600 hectares.

The participants in the session said that a dam on the northern Kebir River, whch is being built with the participation of Soviet specialists, will be put into operation in the first half of 1987. The effort to build an irrigation system is under way in the basin of this river.

The partners also discussed the possibilities for pooling efforts in drafting projects to utilize the water resources of the rivers Barada and Auwaj for water supply of cities and irrigation of arid lands.

In 1987, the USSR will continue deliveries of equipment and materials for building irrigation facilities in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and also assistance in training national personnel for Syria's water economy.

PRAVDA NOTES FURTHER DETAILS ON TRIPARTITE TALKS

PM161251 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Soviet-Angolan-Cuban Consultations"]

[Text] In line with established practice, there was an exchange of opinions in Moscow on 10-11 March involving delegations from the USSR, Angola, and Cuba, during which there was a discussion of the international situation, in particular the situation in southern Africa.

The participants in the consultations were unanimous that the long conflict in southern Africa is causing suffering to the peoples of the region and is a seat of tension that is complicating the world situation in general.

The existence of the disgraceful apartheid regime in Pretoria, backed, beneath the banner of so-called "constructive engagement," by the U.S. Administration and its allies, is the cause of the criminal oppression of the people of South Africa, the illegal occupation of Namibia, the aggressive actions against Angola and Mozambique, and the increasing destabilizing actions against other "Frontline" States.

The People's Republic of Angola is the victim of direct aggressive actions by the racist armed forces and criminal acts by their stooges -- the gangs of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) -- against defenseless civilians, and acts of sabotage against economic facilities and communications. The sides resolutely condemned the efforts by Pretoria and Washington to destabilize the situation in Angola and, ultimately, to overthrow people's power and set up a puppet regime obedient to imperialism.

The Angolan delegation expressed a high opinion of Soviet and Cuban international assistance in the matter of economic and social development and in strengthening its defenses in the interests of rebuffing the imperialist policy of aggression and interference.

The sides confirmed their commitment to a just settlement of the conflict in southern Africa and advocated stepping up the collective quest for ways of arranging such a settlement involving the United Nations, the OAU, the group of "Frontline" States, the Nonaligned Movement, and all interested forces supporting freedom, justice, and peace in the region, which can be achieved only on condition that the odious apartheid system is eliminated.

The participants voiced their active solidarity with the African National Congress (ANC) and South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) and noted that despite the savage repression and neocolonialist maneuvers by the South African racists, the liberation struggle of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia continues to grow.

The USSR, Cuba, and Angola are advocating the elimination of the disgraceful apartheid system in South Africa and the immediate granting of independence to Namibia in accordance with UN decisions.

Concerning the present international situation, the sides stressed that the Soviet proposals aimed at the elimination of mass destruction weapons and creation of an all-embracing system of international security are of exceptional importance for the future of the world.

Particular mention was made of the constructive nature of the new Soviet initiative put forward by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev on 28 February.

The tripartite meeting took place in a comradely, fraternal atmosphere, in the spirit of complete mutual understanding. It was attended by:

Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister; A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; V.A. Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; and A.L. Adamishin, USSR deputy foreign minister; on the Soviet side,

P. Maria Tonha, member of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party (MPLA-PT) Central Committee Politburo and Angolan defense minister, and A. Van Dunen, member of the MPLA-PT Central Committee Politburo and Angolan minister of external affairs, on the Angolan side,

J. Risquet Valdez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat, and Division General A.O. Sanchez, deputy minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, on the Cuban side.

MOZAMBIQUE'S CHISSANO RECEIVES DELEGATION

PM161415 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Common Desires and Intentions"]

[Text] Maputo, 12 Mar -- The peoples of Mozambique and the USSR are united by a common desire to maintain peace. We wholly support the Soviet Union's untiring efforts in this direction. Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano, chairman of the Mozambique Liberation Front, stated here. Yesterday he received the Soviet delegation that has been participating in a session of the Soviet-Mozambican Intergovernmental Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation and Trade.

The USSR and the other socialist countries are our traditional friends, J. Chissano said. The development of relations with them is the number one question for Mozambique. He stressed the great importance of the present commission session held in Maputo on the eve of the celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the USSR and Mozambique. The Mozambican leader advocated the further strengthening of bilateral ties.

SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTIES ARRIVE IN ANGOLA

LD161902 Moscow TASS in English 1636 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Luanda March 3 TASS -- By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Korzun and Grigoriy Sobolev:

A group of deputies [words indistinct] has arrived in the People's Republic of Angola today.

The Soviet delegation is led by Pavel Gilashvili, vice-president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The Soviet MPs are currently on a tour of the "Frontline" States of southern Africa.

The Soviet MPs were welcomed in Luanda's Fourth of February Airport by Lusion Lara, first secretary of the People's Assembly (parliament) of the Republic of Angola.

The Soviet Union is in solidarity with the heroic fight waged by the Angolan people in defence of the revolutionary gains from the encroachments of the imperialists, South African racists and their minions, Pavel Gilashvili said upon arrival in Luanda. The head of the Soviet delegation pointed out the successful development of interparliamentary ties between the USSR and the People's Republic of Angola, and noted that the visit paid to Soviet Union last September by the delegation of the Angolan People's Assembly had been an important contribution to strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between the highest legislative authorities of the two countries.

Aim of our visit, Pavel Gilashvili stressed, is to discuss with Angolan colleagues both questions directly concerning the parliamentary activities and the most (?burning issues) of concern for all people of goodwill. Such meetings and talks have a special role to play under the conditions of the present-day explosive international situation, which has been aggravated to a limit through the fault of the aggressive Western circles.

Preservation of peace on earth is the key problem of the present and it can be resolved only by pooling the efforts of all peoples, big and small, Pavel Gilashvili pointed out.

The head of the Soviet delegation pointed out Angola's great contribution to the cause of strengthening peace and international security and wished the courageous Angolan people every success in building an independent and flourishing homeland.

MALMIERCA RETURNS TO CUBA FROM NONALIGNED MEETING

LD151008 Moscow TASS in English 0726 GMT 15 Mar 87

[Text] Havana March 15 TASS -- Cuban Foriegn Minister Isidoro Malmierca said in an interview with the PRENSA LATINA agency that a meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of non-aligned countries in Guyana had favoured stronger unity to protect their independence and progress. Today he returned to Havana after the end of the meeting in Guyana. The head of the Cuban Foreign Office positively assessed the results of the meeting, pointing out that there was an atmosphere of great understanding, close and friendly relations between its participants.

ORTEGA ON U.S. 'INTERFERENCE', NONALIGNED MEETING

LD170909 Moscow TASS in English 0814 GMT 17 Mar 87

[Text] Managua March 17 TASS -- The Reagan Administration continues interfering in the internal affairs of Nicaragua and staging subversive and terrorist actions against it in defiance of growing world public protests. This was said by Daniel Ortega, the president of Nicaragua, to pressmen on Monday. The American Adminstration's aggressive policy towards Nicaragua, he said, stems from the neocolonial essence of American imperialism and its geopolitical interests in Central America. This was confirmed again by President Reagan in his statement on Saturday. He said Nicaragua remained for the United States a "vitally important zone" and that this determined Washington's position in repsect of Nicaragua. Similar statements, Daniel Ortega said, were also made by American rulers in the past century. Pleading its "strategic interests" in Central America, the United States is grossly interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign countries in the region.

The Nicaraguan leader stressed the great importance of the Georgetown meeting of the Non-aligned Coordinating Bureau which expressed moral and political support for the struggle of the Nicaraguan people for freedom and independence and denounced Washington's aggressive policy in Central America.

NICARAGUA'S D'ESCOTO ON U.S. 'LAW OF THE JUNGLE'

LD132008 Moscow TASS in English 1843 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Georgetown March 13 TASS -- The United States is pursuing in Central America a policy based on the "law of the jungle" when "the strong is always right," Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has pointed out.

Speaking at a press conference here, he observed that the United States was looking for a justification for the war on Nicaragua.

It claimed, for instance, that Central American countries were unable to live in peace. That was a lie, since it was the United States which had (?drawn them) in the war against Nicaragua. The U.S. alleged that it was the only guarantor of democracy in the region. That was lie, too, since all the military dictatorships there had been installed in power or financed by the U.S.

In prattling about democratic rights, the minister said, Washington was engaged in a war against the country which for the first time in its history held truly free and fair elections, the fact that was confirmed by numerous foreign observers.

D'Escoto observed that the principal cause of the American war against Nicaragua lay in the fear the U.S. had of the right of every nation to free development.

Washington had always regarded Latin America as its "backyard" where "freedom" was restricted by the limits that suited the U.S. and where relations were characterized by feudal dependence.

The Nicaraguan revolution destroyed these relations, proclaiming to all that it would build its policy on the basis of equality with all nations in the world, the minister said. The fear of Nicaragua which set an example for all other countries in Central America was pushing the U.S. to new, ever more dangerous ventures.

STATEMENT ON U.S. TROOPS AT HONDURAN BORDER

LD131321 Moscow TASS in English 1237 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Managua March 13 TASS -- The Nicaraguan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement in connection with continued provocations by the Honduran military against Nicaraguan populated areas. Innocent civilians, among them children, have lost their lives as a result of the provocations.

The statement, circulated here on Thursday, expresses serious concern over the presence of U.S. servicemen near the republic's borders. The U.S. servicemen are in Honduran territory on the plea of holding joint military exercises.

"The aggressive actions by the Honduran military against Nicaragua", the statement says, "are aimed at provoking an armed conflict between the two countries and at further aggravating the military and political situation in the region".

"With a view to preventing armed clashes, the Government of Nicaragua has withdrawn all Sandinist People's Army units from the areas which were barbarously bombed in recent days, and most residents were evacuated from the areas".

The Government of Nicaragua has requested the countries of the Contadora Group and of the Support group to carry out an inquiry into the crimes of the Tegucigalpa regime against the Nicaraguan people and to use their international prestige to prevent a large-scale military conflict in Central America.

The Nicaraguan Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also sent a note of protest to the Government of Costa Rica in connection with gatherings of the leaders of counter-revolutionary organisations in San Jose. The gatherings are being held with the connivance and permission of local authorities.

"Such actions run counter to the norms of international law and to Costa Rica's pledges to adhere to the policy of neutrality", the statement points out.

UKRAINIAN KOMSOMOL CONGRESS OPENS 5 MARCH

AU111152 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 6 Mar 87 pp 1-3

[RATAU report: "Acting Energetically and Creatively, Actively Participating in Restructuring]

[Excerpts] In accomplishing the most difficult and bold tasks in the crucial times of our history, the party has always turned to the Komsomol. Today, when the country has embarked upon the path of accelerating and restructuring, and when its entire public life has been permeated with an atmosphere of high exactingness, our young people, inspired by the ideas of the 27th party congress and the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee Plenum, are striving again to be in the front ranks of those implementing the large scale program for socioeconomic renewal.

The times demand from each young man and woman even more energy, enthusiasm, creativity, and responsibility. An exacting and critical discussion on what has to be done to increase the young people's share in accomplishing the party-set tasks and to invigorate the Komsomol's participation in implementing the CPSU socioeconomic policy took place at the 25th congress of the republic's Komsomol, which opened in the Ukraina Palace of Culture in Kiev on 5 March.

Participating in the congress proceedings were V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary; I.A. Gerasimov; Yu.N. Yelchenko; Ye.V. Kachalovskiy; B.V. Kachura; A.P. Lyashko. V.P. Mironov; I.A. Mozgovoy; V.A. Sologub; A.A. Titarenko; V.S. Shevchenko; V.A. Ivashko; Yu.A. Kolomiyets; V.D. Kryuchkov; V.A. Masol; S.N. Mukha; and Ya.P. Pogrebnyak, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo members and candidate members; and N.K. Dolgushkin, All-Union Komsomol Central Committee secretary.

Participating in the congress proceedings were also responsible workers of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, Supreme Soviet Presidium, Council of Ministers, and Trade Union Council; of the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee, Kiev Gorkom and Obkom; leaders of the republic's ministries and departments; party and Komsomol veterans; frontranking production workers and innovators; as well as representatives of the fraternal youth leagues of the GDR, Poland, and Czechoslovakia.

The following agenda was endorsed:

1 — Report on the work performed by the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee, and tasks for restructuring the activity of the republic's Komsomol organizations in light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee plenum.

2 — Report by the Auditing Commission of the Ukrainian Komsomol.

3 — The election of the governing bodies of the republic's Komsomol organization.

V.I. Tsybukh, Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee first secretary, delivered the accountability report. [passage omitted]

V.N. Miroshnichenko, Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee second secretary and Auditing Commission chairman, delivered a report on behalf of the Auditing Commission.

The republic's Komsomol congress continued its proceedings on 6 March.

PRAVDA UKRAINY On Proceedings

AU111154 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 7 Mar 87 pp 1-3

[RATUA report: "Acting Energetically and Creatively, Actively Participating in Restructuring"]

[Excerpts] On 6 March the 25th congress of the republic's Komsomol continued its proceedings in the Ukraina Palace of Culture in Kiev. The congress delegates discussed the work carried out by the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee, and tasks for restructuring the activity of the republic's Komsomol organizations in light of the decisions of the 27th party congress and the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee Plenum, and the report by the Auditing Commission of the republic's Komsomol organization. [passage omitted]

The congress was addressed by V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary. (Comrade V.V. Shcherbitskiy's speech is published in this issue of the newspaper).

The concluding speech at the congress was delivered by V.I. Tsybukh, Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee first secretary.

In the adopted resolution, the congress approved the work performed by the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee in the period under review, and specified measures to restructure the activity of Komsomol organizations and to increase their share in accomplishing the tasks set by the 27th Party Congress and the January 1987 CPSU central Committee Planum. The accountability report by the Ukrainian Komsomol Auditing Commission was approved.

The congress then examined the third item on the agenda. The delegates elected the governing bodies of the republic's Komsomol organization -- the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee and Auditing Commission.

The 25th congress of the republic's Komsomol ended its proceedings.

Governing Bodies Elected

AU111156 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 7 Mar 87 p 3

[RATAU report: "A Plenum of the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee"]

[Text] A plenum of the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee elected by the 25th Ukrainian Komsomol Congress was held recently. Organizational issues were examined.

V.I. Tsybukh was elected Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee first secretary; V.N. Miroshnichenko was elected second secretary; V.V. Barabash, A.S. Matviyenko, P.N. Simonenko, Yu. D. Sokolov, and O.G. Yatsyna were elected secretaries.

At a session of the Auditing Commission of the republic's Komsomol organization, K.I. Malchenko was elected Auditing Commission chairman.

Shcherbitskiy Addresses Congress

AU130931 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 7 Mar 87 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report on speech delivered by V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, at the 25th Ukrainian Komsomol Congress on 6 March -- passages within slantlines published in boldface]

[Text] Esteemed Comrades: The proceedings of the Ukraine's Komsomol Congress have undoubtedly attracted the attention of all the republic's working people. This is only natural. Young people have at all stages made their essential contribution to the nationwide cause of building socialism. Today, as restructuring is gathering impetus in the country, we have a right to count on the most active participation of our young men and women in it. /"This is your cause,"/ Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorvachev emphasized at the Estonian Komsomol Congress, /"This is your present and future."/ It is precisely one's attitude to restructuring that today makes up the main criterion of man's political and civil maturity.

The young generation and restructuring have, naturally enough, become the main issue at this congress. Having published its accountability report in advance, the republic's Komsomol Central Committee acted correctly, in the spirit of the requirements of the January CPSU Central Committe Plenum. The precongress discussion on the amendments in the Komsomol statutes, as well as on the candidates recommended to the Komsomol's elective bodies, was not stereotyped; it showed an interest in the subject. I think you will agree with me that all this has made your congress more businesslike, more democratic.

The frank and principled discussion held was evidence that, no matter what aspect of public life we touched upon -- the economy, the social sphere or culture -- they all were of concern to young people. The development of the key industrial branches, the construction of big projects, the intensification of agricultural production, and the acceleration of scientific-technological progress are now unthinkable without the participation of young people. It is politically important to note that, in the 11th 5-year period, the Ukraine's Komsomol sent more than 100,000 young men and women to projects of importance for the country. With an active participation of young people, 50 large national economic facilities were built in the republic. More than 90,000 holders of Komsomol passes staffed the republic's stockbreeding farms.

This congress saw off a new detachment of 1,600 young enthusiasts to priority projects of the 5-year period. Respect and glory be to such Komsomols, true patriots.

In a word, life itself clearly shows what a great force the Komsomol is. It was the Komsomol who had brought up our many front-ranking production workers, heroes and prizewinners, scientists and cultural figures renowned all over the world. It is the Komsomol who now gives such people as Zoya Kovshova, woman weaver at the Darnitsa silk combine and deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet; Mariya Gvozd, poultry breeding team leader in Cherkassy Oblast and holder of a Leninist Komsomol Prize; Andrey Tripolskiy, Zaporozhye steel smelter; Mariya Radivanyuk, Rovno woman builder and deputy to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet; Igor Tuluzov, young Kharkov scientist; Vadim Pisarev, the republic's honored artist; Sergey Bubka, repeatedly world champion; and many others of our outstanding young contemporaries. It is not mere chance that all of them are delegates to this congress.

However, while doing justice to what has been done, V.V. Shcherbitskiy emphasized, we must not, we no longer are entitled to apply the old yardsticks to the achievements This was noted both in the accountability report and in many speeches. /The achievements have to be compared with the outstanding tasks which we are obligated to do and must do to ensure acceleration in practice./ I am confident that you are in favor of such an attitude because this is the demand of the times, of life itself.

In restructuring, the party comes out as a party of innovators and revolutionaries. "Young people," V.I. Lenin emphasized, "have always been more willing to follow innovators." Initiated seven decades ago, the revolution is now continuing in the multiform struggle waged by the party to renew our society's life.

For young people, it is now particularly important /to actively join in restructuring in the economic sphere./

What is it that matters most in this respect? It is to learn to manage in a new way, to manage in an economically competent manner -- under the conditions of economic accountability, self-funding and self-financing. Someone might think this is not a Komsomol business. Who else if not young people should pick up and drive everything that is new?

Restructuring both provides conditions for and calls for the rebirth of the romanticism of intense shock labor, which is the only thing capable of giving young people the feeling of a full-blooded life, of deep involvement in the affairs and historical destiny of the people. After all, Comrades, labor enthusiasm and the most striking feats are stamped with the same high hallmark.

Our dynamic times call for new heroes, for true champions of restructuring and accelerating. We are confident that the Komsomol will bring forth young heroes of our times! The creation of a museum of the Stakhanovite movement would undoubtedly facilitate the shaping of such heroes. This was warmly and convincingly stated by a congress delegate and representative of the third Stakhanovite generation, Aleksandr Tsarevskiy.

In its essence, restructuring is alien to blather and idle talk. One can say that one single -- even if not very significant, but concrete and useful -- job done by each one at his workplace is now worth more than a dozen most eloquent words. There is one condition: Everything the Komsomol undertakes should be done well, as they say, wholeheartedly, should be a model for others, should prove to be a school of restructuring, of accelerating.

However, and this has to be said frankly -- in practice this is not always the case. For example, can Komsomol and youth collectives falling short of the plans for the construction of mines be regarded as exemplary? Or let us take agriculture. Young machine operators and stockbreeders frequently work in the old way, are poor at adopting new technologies and team contracting. This list could be continued.

A great deal, for example, has been said about the development of scientific and technical creativity among young people, about engaging them in enterprise reconstruction and reequipment. However, some Komsomols -- like those of Kiev and Kharkov -- have made significant progress, while others have not gone beyond discussions. Or let us take Komsomol patronage over the development and application of small-scale mechanization means. This patronage has been assumed and forgotten. [paragraph continues]

This was very correctly noted by Comrade V.K. Alekseyev and other delegates. As a matter of fact, this problem is very important. After all, even in industry every third worker is engaged in unproductive and frequently hard manual labor.

Of course, it is not at all our intention to blame the Komsomol alone for all sins. Let us agree: If you have set about this undertaking, you must accomplish the task with the persistence and energy inherent in the Komsomol, you must overcome all obstacles of inertia, indifference, and bureaucratism. We will always give you a hand in this.

Unfortunately, it must also be said that the youth movement for improving production quality has actually come to a standstill in many branches. You will remember: There were integral-process quality teams, there were competitions for the title "Jack-of-all-trades," as well for the right to mark products with one's personal stamp. As time passed, enthusiasm somehow evaporated. On the other hand, young people themselves have begun more loudly and frequently to protest the poor quality of goods. On the whole, those protests are justified. The question, Comrades, is: Who is supposed to manufacture these good and fashionable articles? After all, in light and local industries young people make up almost half of the personnel.

The congress delegates mentioned the "Prestige" training and production association set up in Lvov on the initiative of the oblast Komsomol committee and successfully run by vocational-technical schools and the Institute of Applied and Decorative Art. Its objective is to design models and to produce clothing for young people. This is a worthy matter. The Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee and Ministry of the Light Industry must support this initiative more energetically. Speaking generally, Comrades, let us set about the matter, as they say, with both hands.

The same must be said about the participation of Komsomol organizations in /developing the social sphere./ The things that have to be done in this field are as numerous as in industry, and the most pressing of them is probably housing blocks and cooperatives, and to engage one's own building organization for this purpose.

A purposeful attitude toward this issue has been assumed by the Komsomol committees and young laborers of the cities of Nikolayev, Dneprodzerzhinsk, and Zheltyye Vody. They have built for themselves and by themselves several houses. Certainly, a pessimist could say that, on the republic's scale, this is a drop in the ocean. What matters is not even the 250 brand new apartments. This is both a good initiative and -- the main thing -- a good test for Komsomol organizations in a concrete independent undertaking.

By the way, we can see the first houses have been built in relatively small cities. How long is it going to take Komsomol committees in industrial centers as big as Donetsk, Odessa, Zhdanov, and many others to get into the swing? Both literally and figuratively, they have not even laid the foundations for young people's apartment blocks.

One must also be aware, V.V. Shcherbitskiy continued, that many localities lack good clubs and houses of culture, there are too few sports facilities and kindergartens. Nonetheless, the good idea conceived by the young workers of the Volga automobile plant, to spend 4 days off working in construction, has not met with adequate support among our komsomols. That is why, comrades, I have to refer to the simple truth: to live better, one has to work better.

Let us have a look at young people's dormitories. Have they everywhere become the second home for workers, students, and pupils?

The trainees of the Kamenets-Podolskiy sovkhoz combined with technical school, in their letter to the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, gave an account of the scandalous disorder in their dormitory. It was cold, underfurnished, there was neither a radio nor a television, and bed linen was not changed for months. Moreover, a group of drunk hooligans broke into that practically ownerless school dormitory and perpetrated a grave crime. Even after that there were hardly any changes for the better, and order was established only after the intervention of party Central Committee functionaries. The question is: Where were the school and rayon Komsomol organizations?

Or take another task of importance for the education of the young generation. Why should the Ukraine's Komsomol not assume patronage over the construction of young pioneers houses in the republic? There are rather few of them under construction, and it takes a long time to build most of them. In the city of Dnepropetrovsk, for example, a Young Pioneers house has been under construction since 1978, and in Khmelnitskiy, since 1981. The Komsomol has been accepting that.

It is to be borne in mind that /all problems concerning young people's labor, lives, and recreation are not only social problems, but also political ones./ After all, they are determinant for the stability of cadres, for labor effectiveness, and -- what is equally important -- for the moods, for the atmosphere in youth collectives and young families. The Komsomols should be more persistent -- I would say, sharper toothed -- in posing and settling all questions that concern young people's lives. This is the only way to raise the Komsomol's prestige and role in the lives of young people.

Under the conditions of restructuring and of deepening democracy in our society, it is highly important for the Komsomol to cultivate in each young man and woman civil responsibility,/ in the widest sense of this term. What I mean is responsibility for both great and small things: for the country's destiny, for each person's actions, and for the future of one's young family. It is only possible to cultivate these qualities among young people by confidence, independence, and real deeds. In a word, Comrades, take initiative upon yourselves.

The ideological and moral and class tempering of the younger generation must also be intensified in view of the aggravated ideological struggle in the international arena. It is important to see and to understand: In the world, there are no people who are indifferent to what is going on in our society.

Not only our friends, but also our enemies are watching us closely. Our class adversary is tireless in predicting the failure of restructuring. He is allegedly in favor of democratization, but of the kind that is against socialism, to the detriment of our cause. He is in favor of openness, but of the kind that would work against the party. Our enemies are trying by all means to "retouch" us correspondingly. They are eagerly picking up everything that would be interpreted as some sort of protest, as opposition to the party line. They are mainly banking on our young people, on their insufficient experience of life, and sometimes on their insufficient political training.

For this reason, V.V. Shcherbitskiy emphasized, it was a particular pleasure to listen to young workers, kolkhoz peasants, and representatives of the intelligentsia, who stated unequivocally at this congress: /The Soviet Ukraine's Komsomol and all young people entirely and fully support the party line aimed at restructuring and acceleration./ We believe in the younger generation, in its activity and industry, in its ability to see where truth and justice are. We are against the efforts to fence it off from information, from the struggle among ideas in the world.

At the same time it is essential to realize that it would be a mistake to leave young people face to face with the perfidious enemy, with his massive propaganda and refined disinformation, with his attempts to impose his own opinions, perverted ethics and private-property psychology, egoism and unrestricted permissiveness. Older and more experienced people have the duty to help young men and women develop firm immunity to alien ideology.

This is a matter of common concern for the school, the family, each labor collective, and our mass media. Of course, the Komsomol has a particular role and responsibility in this sphere.

One can say that the efforts /to cultivate deep patriotism and consistent internationalism constitute the backbone of all ideopolitical work./ This was correctly noted by Comrades Chervonopiskiy, Nikitenko, and others.

It is essential to educate not by means of absorbing a sum total of slogans and wishes, no matter how good and correct.

It is necessary to bear in mind that such an education must not be -- to use Lenin's dictum -- a kind of "a festive stroll in the gardens of internationalist eloquence." What matters is to educate by concrete example, by translating ideological convictions into concrete acts. Among the noble examples for young people are the civil consciousness and real courage being displayed by their contemporaries -- Soviet soldiers who are carrying out their internationalist duty in assisting the Afghan people and who are multiplying in a worthy manner the glorious traditions of our Komsomol.

Apart from this, I would like to speak about /students./ After all, they constitute the most inquisitive and dynamic part of the younger generation, a part that reacts sensitively to all processes taking place in society. This is precisely the higher school that creates many conditions for economic, scientific-technological, and cultural progress in society. That is why even the slightest manifestations of formalism, idle talk, and intrusive tutelage are particularly intolerable there.

By the way, many Komsomol committees are absorbed in various mass undertakings to the detriment of painstaking constant work within every students group, every Komsomol. As the speakers correctly noted, the excessive tutelage has resulted in the fact that those responsible for the progress made in the studies and discipline, for the organization of services and recreation in higher, technical, and general-education schools are primarily the teachers, and not the students.

To a large extent this explains the fact that some students do not regard learning as their main obligation, and do not realize its political and ethical sense. Here you have the result of this: Only one-third of students are winners of "good" or "excellent" marks. After all, they are the future specialists and scientists, commanders in production and educators of labor collectives.

It is also to be noted that, in recent years, the role of young people in integrating education, science, and production with one another has noticeably declined. Only 5 percent of students groups now participate in creative cooperation with production collectives. This cooperation, initiated by Donetsk higher schools, was widespread as early as in the seventies.

Similar omissions have to be eliminated by common forces, in stronger reliance on student self-management. This means the tasks people tried to accomplish "from above" in the past (and, of course, did not obtain the results expected) now have to be posed in a new way, in reliance on the intitiative of the students and pupils themselves. More support is to be given to the instructive experience which we have. Mikhail Yatkovskiy spoke convincingly about that. There should be more young people of this kind. More attention should be paid to them.

In connection with the reform of the general-education and vocational school, the Komsomol has obtained a wide field for applying its efforts. Unfortunately, this subject was not sufficiently discussed at the congress. After all, in this country every fourth Komsomol is a student.

These people will soon have to work at plants, projects, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and in the sphere of services. For this reason we must be disturbed by the fact that many of them show no interest in knowledge and are indifferent to their future trades. As a sociological study shows, about 70 percent of graduates from schools find it difficult to choose a profession, and many make the choice without thinking and without any consideration for their inclinations and abilities.

In this respect, the scientists and public education organs who have failed to organize an effective service for occupational guidance owe a great debt to the younger generation. It is no secret that many defects of the "grown up" Komsomol have their roots precisely in general-education and vocational schools, in Young Pioneers teams and detachments. Excessive orchestrating inculcates in children passiveness and dependence. In a word, also in this respect the Komsomol has many things to restructure, to ponder, and to which to apply its efforts and initiative.

I would like to touch upon one more aspect of Komsomol activity -- /the organization of leisure time./ It is important to bear clearly in mind that free time is our public wealth. Naturally enough, we must not allow this wealth to be frittered away in doubtful amusements. In this respect, what matters most is to fascinate rather than to entertain.

To fascinate with an interesting and useful matter not restricted, say, to various types of aerobics, but calling for serious mental and emotional effort. This is the only way to overcome the dangerous symptoms of callousness from which it is only a step to political indifference, alien ethics, and deliquency.

What has to be pitted against that are first of all astute and purposeful actions, I would say, efforts to cultivate among young people interest in social life, in such tested sources of intellectual growth as a good book, theater, music. Our times are remarkable for young people's hobby clubs, technical creativity, and folklore groups which exist, as they say, without subsidies, on a voluntary basis.

In Voroshilovgrad, for example, there have cropped up recently more than a dozen such youth clubs which have been nicknamed "basement" groups. Well known among Kiev students is the amateur theater of the Polytechnical Institute. Without a beloved theater, life is unthinkable both for the new generation of students and for professors and teachers.

Original and colorful are collectives have emerged at numerous educational establishments in the republic. Attesting to this is also the concert that has been organized for the congress participants. [paragraph continues]

The performers are the "Kalina" choir of the Poltava Teachers Training Institute; the "Polet" dance ensemble of the Kiev Civil Aviation Engineering Institute; the "Shchedrik" folkloric ensemble of the Vinnitsa Teachers Training Institute; the "Veselka" folk instruments orchestra of the Chernovtsy University; and many others. Life at higher schools would be much duller without such collectives set up by enthusiasts.

More active support has to be given to young writers, painters, composers, stage artists, and cinematographers. Those who deserve it, must be encouraged.

Irreplaceable is also young people's keenness on /physical culture and sports./ However, statistical figures in this field are, to put it mildly, not gladdening at all. For example, practically 1.5 million people of your age in the republic have never been interested in sports and never passed tests for the "Ready-for-Work-and-Defense" marks. Blame for this is to be shared by Komsomol committees, the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports, and Comrade M.M. Baka, the latter's chairman.

In brief, having summed up what has been said, one can see clearly what responsible tasks are there to be accomplished, and how /imminent is the need for restructuring in the entire Komsomol activity./ At the congress, this idea was perfectly perceivable. However, as noted, progress in restructuring has been slow and feeble.

This applies to many Komsomol committees at all levels, and primarily to city and rayon committees. Here and there, they have close at hand basic Komsomol organizations which are barely alive. It was not mere chance that, during the last accountability and election campaign, 349 basic and 186 shop Komsomol organizations found the work of their governing bodies unsatisfactory. How else can one assess the activity -- or, more accurately, inactivity -- for example, of the Komsomol committee at the Stakhanov car repair plant. The only thing this committee did in one year was to hold one single meeting. It has 1,600 members on its list.

Some committees continue to suffer from "administering itch." To some extent, the stories of Zhashkovskiy and Drabovskiy Rayon Komsomol committees in Cherkassy Oblast are characteristic in this context. In the last 2 years, the first of them was subject to criticism at oblast Komsomol committee plenums 40 times, and the second, 30 times. Functionaries of the oblast Komsomol committee spent nearly 100 days in each of these rayon committees. The oblast Komsomol conference brought down on them the fire of criticism practically for the same shortcomings. Where were the older comrades, party committees?

It would be only fair to say, V.V. Shcherbitskiy said, that also some Komsomol Central Committee secretaries and department chiefs are slow about restructuring. Many of them practically do not participate in the examination of major problems in the field, do not do enough to help Komsomol committees in restructuring their work, and control the situation poorly, particularly in grassroot Komsomol links. It is obvious, Comrade V.I. Tsybukh, it is time to draw conclusions and to more efficiently restructure the work of the Ukrainian Komsomol Central Committee apparatus and, with the assistance of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee's departments and republic-level organizations, to display more initiative.

A more active part in restructuring is also expected from members of elective bodies, who, as a rule, have exerted little influence on the apparatus work and borne no personal responsibility for a specific sector of work. [paragraph continues]

Naturally enough, many Komsomol leaders lack life experience. Experience will come. The things that are absolutely essential are ardor, enthusiasm, warm interest in everything that has been entrusted to you and in what is going on around you. It does not matter if someone even makes a mistake. What matters is not to mark time, but to search and to do a real job. Party organizations will always give you a hand in a useful initiative.

Talented and energetic organizers have to be found and educated. The practice, rooted in many committees, of selecting cadres and aktivs on the basis of data drawn from questionnaires and within a "framework" fixed from above is incompatible with the very nature of the youth league.

The opinions of rank-and-file Komsomols and colleagues, the lofty ideomoral qualities and prestige of an authentic leader -- this is what should count for appointments to Komsomol posts. Young people will only follow those who have mastered well the strategy of acceleration, who struggle for it themselves, and who are able to rally people.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy concluded:

Both in our republic and all over the country, millions of young men and women conscientiously learn and work, pass the test of maturity before the Komsomol, the party, and the people. This test primarily consists in active and persistent efforts to deepen restructuring and to overcome bottlenecks, and in this way to implement the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, the 12th 5-Year Plan plans and obligations. This is important and very necessary, because for us this will be the base of operations to achieve further targets.

(V.V. Shcherbitskiy's speech was listened to with great attention and was repeatedly interrupted with applause).

MOSCOW DETAILS GROMYKO'S ACTIVITIES IN NOVGOROD

LD112033 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] From 9 to 11 March in Novgorod, numerous meetings and conversations took place between Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and workers of the town and oblast.

Comrade Gromyko laid flowers at the Lenin Memorial. The science-production association, Kompleks, which he visited, provides for the development and manufacture of new goods for industrial and consumer equipment. During the conversation which took place here, the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium asked how the plan was proceeding and about the results for January and February. During his conversations with workers and office staff, Comrade Gromyko asked about working and living conditions. Topics of particular attention were questions on the social sphere. The Novgorodskiy Sovkhoz is one of the leading farms in the oblast; success is due to the stability and good qualifications of the cadres of all teams, which is strengthened by constant care for the improvement of their working and living conditions. This was noted at the talk of the Chuchulinskiy rural Soviet ispolkom, during which the sovkhoz managers and representatives of public organizations participated.

Comrade Gromyko was acquainted with the town and oblast organization. For example, people shopping at the Universal shop drew his attention to the fact that often there were none of the most essential foodstuffs in town, and they have to go to Leningrad to buy them, sometimes even to Moscow.

Today, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko met with the party, administrative and economic aktiv. He was also acquainted with the work of the Novgorod Culture Institute.

Speaks on Democratization

LD101333 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1230 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Novgorod, 10 Mar (TASS) -- The consistent democratization of all areas of public and state life and the deepening of the socialist self-government of the people comprise the main link in the totality of problems facing the country. This was noted today by Andrey Gromyko. The member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delivered a speech here at an extended session of the Novgorod oblast Soviet of People's Deputies.

He dwelt in detail on the activity and the tasks of the Soviets. Now, when the political course has been set and when the mechanism for implementing it was has been marked out, a new situation is being created for soviets at all levels, primarily for the lower ones because they stand closer than the others to the labor collectives and are located among the masses, the main force and engine of restructuring, the speaker said. "It is precisely to the grassroots level that the center of gravity of the work of the Soviets is shifting", Andrey Gromyko explained. The extent to which the working people are actually drawn into the business of governing the affairs of society and state will depend on the extent to which the soviets resolutely and consistently implement the line toward democratization."

Andrey Gromyko emphasized that all Soviet people are faced with the task of learning to work under the conditions of the improvement of democracy. "For the soviets of people's deputies, democracy must begin with themselves -- in relations between the soviet and its executive committee, in the style of work with the population, in openness and in taking into account the whole spectrum of opinions of citizens right at the stage of the preparation of decisions," the speaker said.

The approaching elections of local soviets of people's deputies will be a serious test of knowing how to work under democratic conditions, the speaker pointed out. This will be a notable step along the path of the democratization of the process of the formation and functioning of the organs of state power. Andrey Gromyko devoted particular attention to the importance of activating the country's body of deputies. In the USSR today there are over 2.3 million elected people's representatives. "Most of them conduct the affairs of the state at a fitting level, but there are enormous reserves for the improvement of work," the speaker pointed out. He emphasized that the main thing here lies in the formation of the moral attitude of the deputy, of intolerance to everything alien to the socialist way of life, and of a fighting spirit.

Touching on the activity of the local soviets he said that as before their weak point remained their supervision [kontrol] of fulfilling social and economic development plans and of the work of subordinate bodies. Andrey Gromyko also underlined that it was important that in their struggle for legality and for due order in all work sectors, the local soviets did not detach discipline from democracy and achieved a further strengthening of discipline supported by initiative, the creativity of the broadest masses of the working people in conditions of openness and in the course of the democratic transformations that are being implemented.

In conclusion, the speaker discussed a number of international questions. Andrey Gromyko noted that ensuring the peaceful future of the Soviet people was at the heart of the foreign policy activity of the CPSU and the Soviet state. He reminded that in just the last year, the USSR had put forward a whole package of initiatives for an improvement in the international disarmament situation. In many respects, under their influence, understanding is growing in the world of the radical peculiarity of the nuclear missile epoch: Security needs to be comprehensive, and it can be ensured only by political means, not by the continued increase of nuclear weaponry.

In conditions of the U.S. Administration continuing to back away from what has been achieved in the Icelandic capital, Andrey Gromyko said, the Soviet Union has put forward a new major initiative in the sphere of nuclear missile disarmament. The immediate conclusion of a separate agreement on medium-range missiles proposed by it has to become a step toward completely freeing Europe from nuclear arms. The USSR also insistently continues the struggle of the limitation and liquidation of strategic arms, for the prevention of arms in space, and for the general improvement of international relations.

"The international situation requires the mobilization of all the potential of our socialist system, the increase of labor and the public activity of millions of working people. This forms the basic source of the further strengthening of the economic and defense might of our homeland," Andrey Gromyko emphasized.

PRAVDA Cites Gromyko Speech

PM121434 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 87 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "The Soviets -- Relying on the Masses' Living Creativity"]

[Excerpts] Novgorod, 10 Mar -- The restructuring dictates the need to step up the activity of the soviets of people's deputies and renew the forms and methods of their work. This was the central idea in the speeches at an extended session of the oblast soviet held today. The topicality of its agenda -- on measures to further increase the soviets' role and step up their responsibility for the acceleration of the oblast's socioeconomic development in the light of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions -- is obvious, because reserves exist, and not infrequently on the surface. To give more in your work, that is a matter of honor for the people of Novgorod, who have many times been the glory and pride of the fatherland.

The keynote speaker, M.Ye. Semenov, chairman of the oblispolkom, cited many examples testifying to the soviets' contribution to the transfer of the national economy onto an intensive path of development, the improvement of management on the basis of broad democratization, and the implementation of an efficient social policy. [paragraph continues]

However, he was forced to admit frankly that on the whole the anticipated improvements have not yet taken place in their activity. Sometimes deputies are still prepared to compromise: Among them are those who are at odds with their conscience, and those who are honest, but seek a quiet life. Both kinds are our enemies in the cause of restructuring, and we are not going their way. [passage omitted]

A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who has been in Novgorod Oblast since yesterday, delivered a speech to those present.

My impressions of my stay in the oblast, altough it has been very brief, he said, help me to assert the most important thing: The course elaborated by the party of acceleration and restructuring enjoys the people's support. Here in Novgorod the general mood is to firmly pursue the line of renewal and step up efforts in all areas. This is also the unanimous mandate of Soviet people: Do not stop, implement all the plans. The working people express confidence in the party's policy line.

A year has passed since the 27th CPSU Congress. The acceleration imparted by the congress is clearly perceptible both in the economy, and in social development, and in society's spiritual life.

The CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum was an important milestone in the implementation of the congress decisions. Its analysis of the state of the restructuring and the party's cadre policy illuminated reality, as it were. The plenum gave a clear answer to the question of how to carry out the restructuring to make it irreversible, and how to involve the main motive force: the people.

How is the restructuring going in Novgorod Oblast? According to the main indicators, last year's plan was fulfilled in industry. Retooling is taking place at a number of the oblast's leading enterprises. There has been some progress in the social sphere.

From the standpoint of the high demands of the party congress and the Central Committee January Plenum, the changes taking place are not of the nature of a radical breakthrough.

The urgency of the problems of production, improving the quality of output, improving housing conditions and all types of services to the population, and other problems remain. The population's increased expectations are literally knocking at the doors of the oblast soviet of people's deputies and its ispolkom and of the other local soviets. They are not least among those who bear the responsibility for the continuing stagnation in many sectors.

For every Russian or Soviet person, Novgorod is not simply an industrial, scientific, and cultural center in the northwest of the country. It is a city with an exceptional destiny which is inseparable from the destiny of the people.

Does everything the people of Novgorod do today meet these yardsticks, which were established, it may be said, by history itself? Everything necessary and most importantly, everything possible has not yet been done to ensure that the land of Novgorod, washed with the blood and sweat of many generations, sees an improvement. This truth must be recognized, recognized first and foremost by the organs of people's owner, the soviets. They are still too timid in taking advantage of the scope which has opened up for stepping up their influence on the economy, social development, and the entire tone of life in the oblast.

A.A. Gromyko then dwelt on specific examples. On the basis of the 1986 results, he said, one in seven enterprises in industry failed to meet plans for output sales. Nearly one-fourth of labor collectives did not fulfill targets for increasing labor productivity. The main bulk of metal-working equipment, including the most modern equipment, is used virtually in a single shift in the oblast. Some very fine statements were heard about the oblast's fulfillment of plans for the sale of grain, potatoes, and certain other types of produce from the fields. On closer examination what emerges is a tendency to mark time or even a yielding of ground.

The time has come to raise more acutely the question of the responsibility of agroindustrial organs for the existing state of affairs. It is time they showed themselves fully and concentrated their efforts on resolving key questions, instead of on paper-shuffling and perhaps unnecessary regulation of the activity of kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Key questions include, for instance, improving the state of affairs in livestock raising. Given your locality's natural conditions, the proportion of coarse and succulent feed in livestock raising is very insignificant. The standard of crop farming in the oblast is still low, and scientifically substantiated crop rotations have not been introduced on one third of the suitable arable land. Land reclamation work is inefficient.

The situation must be changed.

To help the kolkhoz member and sovkhoz worker to establish himself as master of his land, to restore people's faith in the triumph of social justice -- that is now the political, economic, and social purpose of the restructuring in laggard rural regions.

It is important to surround the rural worker with concern and show that here too, far from the major urban centers, it is possible to improve economic activity and live better. The assistance from the city in the fulfillment of the Food Program should also be weightier.

Economic acceleration is linked by thousands of threads to social policy, A.A. Gromyko noted. Here too the soviets' role and responsibility are great.

You have made some progress in the social sphere. The percentage of housing constructed on the basis of proportionate participation by enterprises is increasing. New stores, schools, hospitals, cultural institutes, and sports facilities have appeared. Consumer service centers have opened at a number of enterprises. The "05" operational service has only recently begun to operate in the city, but is already efficiently taking orders from the population in all sectors of municipal and consumer services.

At the same time more than 62,000 citizens are awaiting improved housing conditions in the oblast, and nearly 14,000 children are waiting to be admitted to creches or kindergartens. In the last two 5-year plans alone, the commissioning of housing showed a shortfall of 570,000 square meters compared with the plan.

At the beginning of this millenium it took our distant ancestors one 5-year plan, in today's parlance, to erect the monumental Cathedral of St. Sophia of Novgorod. Yet we, the descendants of the architects of old, armed with technology, took more than 10 years to build the drama theater. Everyone has seen other monuments to long, drawn-out construction.

As for the quality of construction and the provision of amenities in settlements, here too in most respects a comparison with the craftsmen of the past does not come out in favor of today's construction workers. Of course, the solution is to build up the construction industry base to meet the needs of housing construction and introduce new methods of economic management.

The 27th CPSU Congress spoke of the need to fill the market with various kinds of goods and services. An unsatisfactory situation is taking shape. The reserves available in the localities are being brought in only slowly.

There are also people worthy of emulation in the oblast, such as the Kompleks science and production association. It produced above-plan goods worth nearly R3.5 million. The Novgorodles association considerably exceeded its program. At the opposite pole there are more than 20 enterprises which failed to supply goods worth nearly R12 million.

The Law on Individual Labor Activity creates favorable opportunities to help those who are prepared to revive valuable crafts.

Trade is also to blame for the fact that the population does not receive sufficient quantities of goods in high demand. Trade today has sufficient rights to be able to influence the production sector to act in the direction necessary to the consumer. As yet, however, orders from trade do not determine the volume of output, quality, and range of consumer goods.

A.A. Gromyko went on to speak of another serious complaint against trade. In Novgorod and the oblast's other cities and settlements, he noted, interruptions in the potato and vegetable trade began back in February. Sufficient quantities of vegetables are apparently being laid in for storage, yet they are not reaching the consumer. The problem of preserving the crop grown must be resolved today, without delay, within the framework of the 12th 5-Year Plan.

The sphere of operation of the consumer service system has widened markedly recently. The soviets can be credited with the fact that consumer service institutions and comprehensive reception centers have been organized at the central farmsteads of all 210 kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the oblast. There is still a very long way to go to reach the standard of the frontrunners.

The work schedules of service enterprises are sometimes not sufficiently convenient to people. In 1986 more than 60 percent of enterprises were working a single shift, and only 30 percent one and one-half or two shifts. If you draw a parallel with the transition of industrial enterprises onto two-shift and three-shift working, it becomes obvious both need to progress more boldly.

One of the soviets' main concerns is to implement measures associated with the school reform. So far neither the pace nor the depth of its implementation is yet up to party demands. This applies both th the quality of education, and to labor training, and to the ideological and moral education of schoolchildren.

Within the framework of the implementation of our party's social policy, I would like to touch on another problem which goes beyond the bounds of the oblast. I refer to the participation of ministries and departments of the USSR and the union republics in the comprehensive development of regions on whose territory enterprises and associations under their jurisdiction are located. [paragraph continues]

This is one of the ideas running through the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers.

The position of a number of ministries and departments is undergoing the necessary change, but only slowly. Some of their leadership workers continue to regard participation in the social development of the regions as a direct deduction from their sector's economy.

Here in Novgorod Oblast the Ministry of Mineral Fertilizer Production, the Ministry of the Communications Equipment Industry, and the USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry still clearly separate the production and nonproduction spheres. They consider themselves responsible for the development of only the former, while to the latter they continue to allocate only what is left over. This practice is a remnant of yesterday's relationship between soviets and enterprises and organizations under higher bodies. The resolution whose implementation we have discussed puts this relationship on a fundamentally different economic, organizational, and legal footing.

Our party has always been noted for its ability to single out the most important component in the totality of current problems. Today this component is the consistent democratization of all spheres of public and state life and the deepening of the people's socialist self-management.

Now that the political course has been mapped out and the machinery for its implementation identified, a new situation arises for soviets of people's deputies at all levels. First and foremost, of course, for the grass-roots components, is the rural, settlement, rayon, and city soviets. These are closer than others to the labor collectives, they are among the masses, the main motive force of the restructuring. The center of gravity of the soviets' work is shifting to this grass-roots component. How resolutely and consistently they pursue the line of democratization will determine how actively the working people become involved in the cause of managing the affairs of society and the state.

It is through the work of the local organs, party, soviet, and economic, M.S. Gorbachev stressed, speaking in Latvia and Estonia, that the strategy of acceleration will come into close contact with real life and the labor collectives.

We all face the full magnitude of the task of learning to work in the conditions of improving democracy. The fact that there is plenty to do in this respect is clear here in Novgorod Oblast. You cannot yet find an enterprise where the labor collective council has really got down to work. That is how the situation stands at present. True, work on the election of leaders has started. There is some initial experience. It is important not to spoil things, not to cloud the living spring with formalism, and not to transform elections from a strong, noble action into some kind of social game.

It is apposite to stress that for the soviets, democracy should begin at home: in the relationship between the soviet and its ispolkom, in the style of work with the population, in openness and consideration of the whole spectrum of citizens' opinions at the stage of preparing decisions.

The forthcoming elections to local soviets will be a serious test of our ability to work in democratic conditions. This will be a notable step along the path of democratization of the process of formation and functioning of the organs of state power. [paragraph continues]

I would like to single out one key aspect, namely the stepping up of the activity of our entire deputies' corps. There are more than 2.3 million elected representatives of the people in the country today. The majority of them conduct state affairs at the proper standard. There are enormous reserves for improving work.

A sense of profound respect, for instance, is aroused by the civic stance displayed everyday by Valentin Sergeyevich Proshichev, deputy of Novgorod's Oktyabrskiy Rayon Soviet. A highly skilled fitter, he received the voters' trust with a worker's sense of responsibility on becoming their envoy to the soviet. He visited nearly 350 families, and found a common language with every voter.

It is also necessary to cope with passivity on the part of deputies, when their activity on the organ of power basically boils down to voting for this or that decision. People do not see a real defender of their interests in a deputy like that. That is why in their eyes the path to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, for instance, sometimes is shorter than the path to their own deputy where the resolution of a particular local issue is concerned.

It is good that the ispolkoms are constantly concerned with adding to the deputies' legal and economic knowledge and organize studies for them. All the same, the main thing is to form the deputy's moral stance, his intolerance of everything alien to the socialist way of life, his militancy. After all, in the soviets, especially on the eve of the elections, there is a great demand for principled, businesslike people who, figuratively speaking, put their backs into working for the state's interests, for people, and for truth.

Just as in the country as a whole, in your oblast the measures adopted to strengthen discipline and order were well received. Losses from absenteeism and stoppages have fallen. Cadre turnover has fallen to some extent. There are still many vulnerable points.

As before, the soviets' monitoring of the fulfillment of economic and social development plans and the work of organs under their jurisdiction remains a weak point. Reports from enterprise leaders are rarely heard. Some of them systematically thwart the fulfillment of plans, while the ispolkoms do not raise with higher organs the question of their responsibility.

The state of affairs must be resolutely improved. There must be a universal awareness that respect for the law and order in everything are an integral part of democracy today and tomorrow. Socialism is a sober, conscious society organized on high moral principles.

In practical terms it is very important that the soviets, in launching the struggle for the rule of law and due order in every sector of work, do not divorce discipline from democracy, but strive to strenthen it, relying on the initiative and creativity of the broadest masses of working people in conditions of openness and in line with the current democratic transformations.

In conclusion A.A. Gromyko dwelt on a number of international issues. Peace and labor, that was inscribed on the banner of Great October, he said. This slogan contains the unfading essence of socialism. Ensuring a peaceful future for our people is at the center of the foreign policy activity of the party and the Soviet State today as well.

As you know, in the last year alone, the Soviet Union has put forward a whole range of initiatives on improving the international situation and on disarmament. Largely under their influence, there is a growing awareness in the world of that essential characteristic of the nuclear missile age: Security must be universal, and can only be ensured by political means, not by the further buildup of nuclear weapons.

In conditions where the U.S. Administration is still backing away from what was achieved in the Icelandic capital, the Soviet Union has launched a major new initiative in the sphere of nuclear missile disarmament. The proposed immediate conclusion of a separate agreement on medium-range missiles should be a step toward totally freeing Europe from nuclear arms. We are also persistently continuing the struggle for the limitation and elimination of strategic arms, for preventing weapons entering space, and for a general improvement in international relations.

The foreign situation requires mobilization of all our socialist system's potential and increased labor and social activeness on the part of millions of working people. This is the fundamental source of the further strengthening of our motherland's economic and defense might.

Time requires from us not only sober assessments, but also concrete actions to improve the situation.

RAIN BRINGS 'CRITICAL' SITUATION IN TAJIKISTAN

LD161256 Moscow TASS in English 1243 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Dangara, Kulyab region March 16 TASS -- As a result of torrential rains that lasted for several days a critical situation has taken shape in the Kulyab region, especially in the Dangara district -- a virgin-land area of the Soviet Central Asian republic of Tajikistan.

Today in the morning mudflow destroyed a dam of the Sargazan water reservoir. A water mass fell upon the village of Sargazan. 53 houses, a livestock-breeding farm and a poultry farm were swept away. Bridges and a railroad section were destroyed, communication was disrupted. Part of the crops were washed away. 19 people were killed. Six people were brought to hospital in a grave condition. 22 people are reported missing.

Ambulance aircraft are operating in the distress area. Special groups are searching for those who are missing.

Relief is rushed to the people afflicted by the natural calamity. Tents, food and pharmaceuticals are being shipped. Senior officials of a number of ministries and departments led by Izatullo Khayeyev, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic, arrived in the flood-stricken area. Urgent measures are being taken to cope with the effects of the calamity.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Tajikistan, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Tajik Republic expressed condolences to the bereaved families.

A tense situation has also formed in the wake of torrential rains in a number of areas of the Kurgan-Tyubinsky region.

MUSLIM 'FANATIC' SENTENCED; CPSU MEMBERS EJECTED

LD120252 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Why has fanaticism grown? This question is asked by a TASS correspondent, who filed the following report:

Not by his own will but in the name of the law (Abdulo Savdov), a self-styled mullah and former worker at the Kurgan-Tyube technical inventory office, abandoned his pastor's service. At an open trial in this oblast center in Tajikistan, the antisocial activities of the spiritual leader of the underground religious sect of (Vakhabists) were completely exposed. This, let us recall, is a reactionary current in the Muslim religion. The compatriots of (Saydov) themselves, who appeared as witnesses for the prosecution in this case, called him a medieval fanatic. However, it was not at the last supper but in the light of day that this newly-brought-to-light prophet perpetrated his antisocial orgies [shabashi]. He selected the Turkmenistant state farm as the site for his homebrewed [samosbrodnyye] sermons.

At the trial, (Saydov) said he was guided by the wishes of the inhabitants themselves. The main reason for the fact that it was precisely here that the schismatic underground sect operated lay somewhere else. For many years (Nureddin Saydov), (Abdulo's) father, had been director of the state farm. He was the type of religious fanatic who from time to time revealed his true face and who given up his party card the day after retiring on pension. The self-styled mullah was also protected from the law by his elder brother who, prior to the trial, was acting party secretary.

Fairness demands that it be said that at the state farm there were people who rebuffed the exasperating self-styled mullah. For instance, he bypassed, or more correctly, drove past [words indistinct]. (Abdulo) had several private saloon cars in the villages of (Khavaskor) and Imeni Zhdanova, from where he had to retreat from the first evening without having completed his sermon (?These villages called his coreligionists to atheism.) Nevertheless, the drug of religious fanaticism poisoned several souls. At the state farm, which figuratively speaking, was situated a stone's throw away from the oblast center, many people stopped listening to the radio, subscribing to newspapers and magazines and watching television.

Not just very old men or similiterate people fell under the fanatic's influence. The competent agencies gave (Saydov) more than one official warning regarding his responsibility for violating the Soviet Constitution, for propagating fabrications defaming the state and public system, knowing them to be false. It was suggested to him that he should voluntarily disband the schismatic sect which he had organized in circumvention of the law.

Imam (Morodzhon Savitov), a leading priest in the mosque in Kurgan-Tyube, condemned the unlawful activities of the self-styled mullah before parishioners. However, (Saydov) continued conducting his instigatory sermons. The court called to account this fanatic who had thrown aside all restraint. Along with him, the most active participants in the sect were sentenced. An assessment, based on principle, was given by the party's oblast committee. Some leading officials, who at one time were responsible for ideological education work, have been excluded from the ranks of the CPSU. A strict party penalty has now been suffered, too, by Khodaydodov, a former first secretary of the Vakhsh rayon party committee.

This was a TASS report from Tajikistan.

EARLY MARCH WEATHER, CROP STATUS REVIEWED

PM161429 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 14 Mar 87 p 2

[USSR Hydrometeorological Center report prepared by agrometeorologist T. Ivansheva: "Weather and Crops"]

[Text] Cold weather persisted over most of the country's European territory. The lowest temperatures were recorded in the Northwest Region and the western Central Region. The minimum air temperature there went down to minus 30-34 degrees. The thermometer fell to minus 19 in the western Volga Region and the southern Ukraine, with the North Caucasus down to minus 14 and the remaining territory down to minus 29.

There were snowfalls in central and eastern rayons of the Ukraine, most of the Central Chernozem Region, and the western part of the Volga and North Caucasus Regions. Precipitation there was 2-4 times above the annual mean, with up to 5-7 times the annual norm in the Crimea and in places in Donetsk and Zaporozhye Oblasts. Thick snow cover formed in those regions.

Winter spring crops were in a state of winter dormancy throughout the European part of the USSR. Snow cover has reliably protected them from the effect of low temperatures. The minimum soil temperature at winter grain crop tillering node depth and grass root neck depth was considerably above the critical temperature. The severe frosts in the Northwest Region and the western Central Region could cause an increased amount of damage to fruit and leaf buds and to the trunk and branches of fruit trees.

The average air temperature in the Transcaucasian republics was close to the annual mean, while in Armenia it was 2-3 degrees above. The buds of almond, apricot, peach, and sweet and sour cherry trees have begun swelling. This is 1-2 weeks ahead of time.

It grew colder in the arable regions of Siberia during the second half of the 10-day period. It was 25-32 degrees with frost some nights. In places the minimum temperature at the snow surface was below minus 15.

The average air temperature in northwestern regions of Kazakhstan was 1-4 degrees below average, at minus 14-18. Conditions favoring the wintering of fall-sown crops persisted in Siberia and perennial grasses are in a state of dormancy, lying beneath a thick (20-50 cm) snow covering.

Mild weather was recorded in the Central Asian republics. Heavy rain fell in most rayons of Tajikistan and Kirghizia and also in Navoi and Tashkent Oblast. Some 11-30 mm of precipitation occurred in the remaining oblasts of Uzbekistan and also in Ashkhabad Oblast. This amount of precipitation is 1.5-4 times above average for this 10-day period. Winter grain crops have been growing with a good supply of moisture.

Very mild weather in the Central Asian republics has caused the rapid development of fruit crops and grapes. The buds of apricot, peach, plum, mulberry, sour cherry, pear, apple, and cherry-plum trees have begun swelling on a large scale in virtually all of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan and in southern Kirghizia and Kazakhstan. Almond and apricot trees are blossoming in the southern part of the Central Asian republics (except for Kirghizia) and sap has begun rising in the vines. Fruit crops are developing 2-3 weeks ahead of time.

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

SIX COSMOS SATELLITES LAUNCHED INTO ORBIT 13 MAR

LD140815 Moscow TASS in English 0811 GMT 14 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 14 TASS -- The USSR blasted off six satellites (Kosmos 1827-1832) on Friday. All of them are put into orbit with one carrier rocket. The satellites carry equipment for space research. All the six satellites revolve along orbits close to the calculated ones with the following initial parameters: orbital period -- 113.9 minutes, apogee -- 1,442 kilometres, perigee -- 1,400 kilometres, orbital inclination -- 82.6 degrees.

Equipment aboard the satellites functions smoothly.

COSMONAUTS CONTINUE TASKS ABOARD MIR COMPLEX

LD131148 Moscow TASS in English 1100 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS -- Correspondent reports from the Mission Control Centre:

Soviet Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin have completed the fifth week of their orbital flight.

Under the programme of the past days, the crew performed experiments on space technology, assembled the stationary camera "kate-140", a modernized technological apparatus designed for producing semiconducting materials with improved characteristics in conditions of microgravitation.

"Korund" comprises an electric furnace designed for operation with six specimens in consequent order, and a microcomputer-based control system which allows experiments to be performed in an automatic mode under the pre-set programme.

Today, the crew of the orbital complex have a regular medical day. It stipulates for the study of the cosmonauts' cardio-vascular system in conditions of rest and a dosed physical load on the veloergometer exerciser. The multi-functional apparatus "Gamma" and an ultra-sound cardiograph will be put to use to record the physiological parameters.

According to telemetry and the crew's reports, the flight of the manned complex Mir proceeds normally. Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin feel well.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES CREATES TWO NEW BRANCHES

LD122049 Moscow TASS in English 1951 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- A general annual meeting of the USSR Academy of Sciences approved today a decision to create two more branches of the USSR Academy of Sciences, in the Far East and in the Urals region. The branches will be formed on the basis of regional research centres. Guriy Marchuk, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, believes that the purpose of this measure is to enhance the independence of scientific research in provinces and to bring them closer to practical needs.

Participants in the meeting revised the rules of the USSR Academy of Sciences in accordance with the reorganization now under way in the country and introduced some changes into it which are evidence of the democratization of the society. Scientists revised age qualification for holding administrative posts, which, in the opinion of most scientists, would permit to rejuvenate the academy. The meeting elected Abel Aganbegyan, 55, to the post of the academic secretary of the Department of Economy. Aganbegyan's works are well known both in this country and abroad.

Svyatoslav Fyodorov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and prominent Soviet ophthalmologist, and Josef Riman, president of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences specialist in molecular biology, were awarded today the Lomonosov Gold Medals. This supreme distinction of the academy is awarded annually to a Soviet and a foreign scientist for outstanding accomplishments in natural sciences.

The meeting ended its work today.

EXPERTS SAY MARS EXPEDITION 'REALIZABLE'

LD141345 Moscow in Serbo-Croatian to Yugoslavia 2000 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Excerpts] In the view of experts, landing cosmonauts on the neighboring planet Mars is today a realizable undertaking. It is true Mars is not particularly hospitable. [passage omitted]

However, it is thought that several million years ago, when rivers flowed there, there were considerably greater chances of the existence of life. If man could today get to one of Mars' winding river valleys and investigate the geological structure of its banks, much could be learned about the climatic changes in the universe, about the origins and evolution of life, and about the comparative development of neighboring worlds.

Here is a scientific associate of the Institute for Space Research of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Irina Yegorova: [words indistinct] investigation of the planet has reached the point where a start could be made on preparations of piloted expeditions. The time has come to seriously consider this. For such an expedition to be viable, it should be carried out within the framework of a broad program of long-term research. Soviet scientists have proposed to a new project their colleagues in Intercosmos. In the opinion of the director of the Institute for Space Research of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Academician [name indistinct] Sagdeyev, a piloted (?flight) to Mars should be preceded by the launching of an automated device in that direction. Thus, the technical side of the flights could be perfected in stages, because [words indistinct] the choice of the area for a landing made, and the necessary investigations carried out there. The results obtained will assist in the better preparation for a manned flight to Mars, the guarantee of its safely and the more precise determination of the scientific tasks of the expedition.

The time of the launching of the automatic device will depend on (?energy) possibilities, that is, the possibility of launching into the flight trajectory a sufficiently large and useful cargo. An expedition to Mars should be undertaken at the time when it is in the so-called upper configuration with the Earth, that is when it is situated on the opposite side of the Sun.

Toward the end of the century such astronomically favorable periods for a flight to Mars will recur approximately every other year. Taking these periods into consideration, Soviet scientists have sent their foreign colleagues a program for the phased study of Mars for their consideration. The program is to include a number of successive flights, with each expedition creating a basis for new, more complicated experiments. The ultimate goal of the program is to bring back to Earth soil samples from Mars by the year 2000. The research would then continue on how to create favorable conditions by the year 2020 for a (?piloted expedition) and the landing of cosmonauts on its surface.

The program proposed by Soviet scientists envisages that in the first phase, satellites should be [word indistinct] around Mars, from which global, topographical photographs would be taken and the most interesting zones studied. Then special apparatus would be lowered onto the surface for the physical and chemical analysis of the soil, and aerostats would be sent into the atmosphere of Mars. It is envisaged that the aerostats will be able not only to alter the height of their flight, but also if necessary to land on the surface of Mars and carryout investigations [words indistinct] the strata of the atmosphere. On the basis of the data obtained during such expeditions, it will be possible to embark on the preparations of the next phase -- the delivery of Mars-walkers, as the devices which will move on the surface of Mars could be called. The problem of controlling their omovement will be significantly more difficult than was the case when working with Moon modules, that is the devices which were used on the Moon. For the radio signals, which travel at the speed of light, to traverse the distance from Mars to the Earth and back should take about 30 minutes. For this reason it is important that the Mars-walker is to a large extent automated in its work.

The most complicated part of the program of studying Mars with the assistance of automatic devices is the delivery of soil from this planet to Earth. At present it is difficult to forsee in detail all that will be necessary to carry out such an expedition. There are quite a number of specific problems,. but all are surmountable. Thus, for example, the soil samples from various areas, even at some distance from the landing site, can be collected by the Mars-walkers. What is important is the problem of effecting quarantine, which would exclude the possibility of infecting our planet with organisms from space, even though the likelihood of this is small. One of the possible variants would be for the apparatus carrying the samples of soil from Mars to stop at an orbital station which is circling the Earth. The first analyses of the samples obtained would be carried out on this station. Naturally, the sterilization of the space apparatus before it leaves Earth is also necessary, in order to avoid the transfer of Earth microbes to Mars. It is thought that in the program for the study of Mars being prepared by Soviet scientists, not only the scientific organizations of Intercosmos but also experts from many other countries will also take part. The experience gained from work on the Venus-Halley's Comet project shows that such cooperation can be very effective.

A manned flight to Mars will represent in fact a first and most important step on the way to gaining mastery of the entire solar system, Irina Yegorova says in conclusion. [passage omitted]

COMBATTING DRUNKENNESS IN ARMED FORCES VIEWED

PM111247 [Editorial report] Moscow Krasnaya Zvezda in Russian 5 March 1987 First Edition front-pages a 1,000-word editorial under the heading "Establishing a Sober Lifestyle" on the problems of combatting drunkenness and alcoholism in military collectives. The greatest success has been achieved, the report says, where "it is borne in mind that the fight against drunkenness also has to be waged in the officers' quarters and the unit club." Ways must be sought, it continues, to "overcome and break customs involving drunken gatherings" to mark occasions such as "promotions and birthdays." "A great deal of damage is being done to the fight against drunkenness," the report points out, "by the breach between word and deed" of people responsible for setting a good example.

It is often the case, the reports says, that "the regiment commander and other staff officers do not actually give up drinking sessions themselves." Finally, the report says, "establishing healthy principles in everyday life is impossible without active participation by women's councils," as "drunkenness today hides in the home and is consequently more difficult to control."

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